

Stour Vale Letter No.210

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 21st April

9:15am Parish Communion West Stour
10:00am Family Service Todber
6:00pm Evensong East Stour (BCP)

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



Readings for Sunday 21st April

Acts 4.5–12

4th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23

John 10.11–18

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

Tuesday 23rd – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm The Crown East Stour

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

APCMs– Wednesday 24th Buckhorn Weston 7pm – Saturday 27th April Stour Provost 10:45am

Tuesday 30th April West Stour afternoon (time TBC) Kington Magna 6:30pm

Acts 4.5–12 (NIV)

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'" ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

John 10.11–18 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Kington Magna, the congregation of All Saints 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:

Marie (ES), Henrietta (KM), 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

Nigel Beeton writes: My word, but it has been a wet winter, and our hearts go out to all those whose properties and livelihoods have been damaged by floodwaters. In theory, we should still be getting showers in April, and with showers come rainbows. It may be small compensation for those with flooded homes, but the rainbow is a sign of a promise that at least nobody will have to build an ark.

The Rainbow

The world was so wicked that God made it rain
For forty long days and long nights
The floodwaters covered both mountain and plain
They covered the highest of heights!

But Noah survived, because he – free from guilt
Kept the Word of his God in his mind
So he and his kin, in the ark he had built
Lived with two beasts of every kind.

They floated by night and they floated by day
No sign of the land could they spy;
Till at last came the day when the flood drained away
And a rainbow was seen in the sky.

And God said to Noah, “You see that bright bow?
“That rainbow up there in the sky?
“Now I’ve put it there as a sure sign to show
“Of a promise twixt mankind and I.

“In future you’ll know that I won’t make it rain
“So the whole earth is flooded that deep.
“Now the rainbow is there and will be again –
“And you’ll know that this promise I’ll keep.”

On days when it seems that the rain just won’t go
And the floodwaters fill us with fear;
At last comes the sun and the bright coloured bow –
Our God made that rainbow appear.

By Nigel Beeton



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.

23rd April - St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.



Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

Parish Pump

God loves the way you laugh.

Out mouths are filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy . . . The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Psalm 126:2-3

The stars declare the glory of God. The mountains proclaim His might. But some things . . . don't you know that some things were created simply to make you laugh? Why else would a giraffe have such a long, spotted neck? Why else would an elephant have a trunk on his front? And there's simply no other reason for that tuxedoed penguin waddle than to make you giggle and grin.

Some people actually say that laughter is not of God. Don't you believe it! Let the world ring with your giggles, your chuckles, and snorts – because God loves to hear your laughter.

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

Smile Lines

Who?!

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,

I always pay a visit.

So when at last I'm carried in,

the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be, 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Choir

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

What am I?

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

Warning

Sign seen in a store: Unattended children will be given an espresso and a puppy.

Parish Pump

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

Follow us on Facebook at

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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