

Stour Vale Letter No.211

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 28th April

9:15am Parish Communion Stour Provost
10:30am Morning Worship Buckhorn Weston (CW)
11:00am Parish Communion Kington Magna
6:30pm Evensong Fifehead Magdalen (BCP)



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



Readings for Sunday 28th April

Genesis 22.1–18

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26–end

John 15.1–8

Stour Vale Benefice

Services for Sunday 5th May

Holy Communion—9:15am at Todber

Benefice Rogation Sunday Service


12:00 noon

At Old Manor Dairy Farm, Nyland
(SP8 5SJ)


by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Dale.

Followed by picnic

Please bring your own lunch



Take the lane signposted Nyland from A30.
The farm is the first on the left
approximately a mile up Nyland lane from the
A30 with 'Eggs for Sale' board at the entrance.



Please bring a chair.

Please come to support and bless this farm
and pray for all who work the land.

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

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

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

APCMs – Saturday 27th April Stour Provost 10:45am

Tuesday 30th April West Stour 2:30pm – Kington Magna 6:30pm

Tuesday 21st May– Benefice Lunch 12:30pm The Crown East Stour

Thursday 30th May – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

Acts 8.26-end (NIV)

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

John 15.1–8 (NIV)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Praying for our communities

This week in the Stour Vale we pray for the community in Stour Provost, the congregation of St Michael and All Angels 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

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.



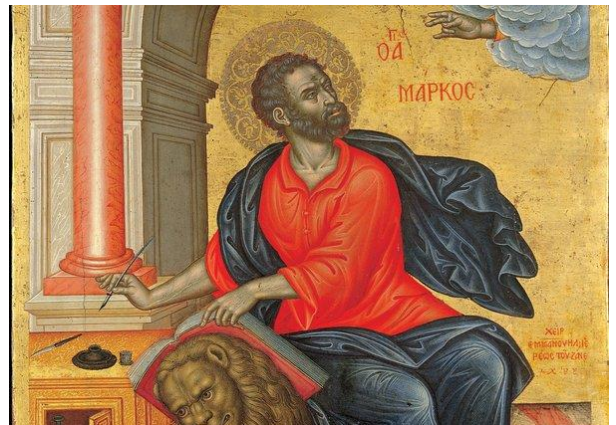
Private Prayer

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.

25th April - Mark, disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.



Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.

Parish Pump

God loves to watch you grow.

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:52

God watched His Son as He grew from a baby in a manger to a man on a mission. And when Jesus was baptised, He came down like a dove to say, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:22).

Just as God watched Jesus grow, He's watching you too. He's watching you grow in wisdom as you learn from His Word. He's watching you grow stronger as you trust Him to make you strong. As you grow, your proud Papa, your Abba says, *You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.*

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

Plant Sale reminders

We have a lot of lovely growers across the Benefice so here's a reminder of all the opportunities there are to stock up for your garden:



Saturday 5th May - Saturday 11th May - West Stour Plant Sale with stalls selling plants at the bottom of driveways. Contact Diana West for the plant list - either phone on 838677 or email dianakmwest@hotmail.com.

Scarecrow Trail: these will be displayed at the end of driveways through the village on the first Saturday, and there'll be a small prize to children who count up the correct number of large scarecrows!

Tea and Cakes will be available in the Village Hall for the morning of Saturday 4th May.

Saturday 11th May - Todber Coffee morning and Plant Sale At the church from 10am to Noon - lovely cakes to go with a cuppa as well as plants for sale.

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

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*

