

# Stour Vale Letter No.212

## Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

9:15am Holy Communion at Todber  
12 noon Benefice Rogation Sunday Service at Nyland –  
Details below



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



**Readings for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**      *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 14: 8-18  
Romans 8: 18-25      John 6: 22-40.

*Stour Vale Benefice*  
**Services for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**



**Benefice Rogation Sunday Service**  
**12:00 noon**  
**At Old Manor Dairy Farm, Nyland**  
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 an '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 May:***

- Every Tuesday** – Said Morning Prayer 9:30am West Stour Church
- Every Wednesday** – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** – Buckhorn Weston Churchyard tidy 5pm
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Benefice Lunch 12:30pm The Crown East Stour
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May** – Stour Vale Prayer Group 2pm East Stour

### **Acts 14:8-18 (NIV)**

In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup> When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup>“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” <sup>18</sup> Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

### **John 6:22-40(NIV)**

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.

<sup>23</sup> Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

<sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

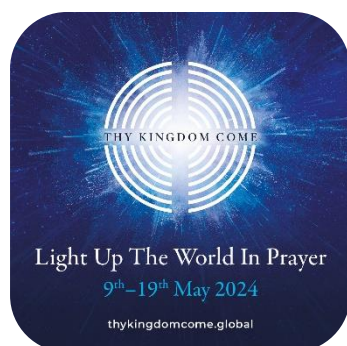
<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

## ***Thy Kingdom Come – prayer in the Benefice for Ascension to Pentecost***



For the eleven days between Ascension and Pentecost the Church of England joins with other denominations in the world-wide movement called ‘Thy Kingdom Come,’ uniting over one million Christians in praying for the Holy Spirit to come and to act in our world.

This year they have produced a book of daily reflections (called a Novena) and a Prayer Journal with some beautiful art work and suggestions on ways to pray. Both are available to download for free at [www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources).

As we enter that period of prayer, we are trialling a new section of the newsletter, suggesting a topic for prayer for each day of the week. We hope you find this helpful. We would welcome your feedback and any suggestions you have for other ways we can help you to pray.

Prayer is the secret weapon of the Kingdom of God. As a church community, prayer is the most important thing we can do. Everyone can pray, and everyone’s prayers make a direct difference to the situations we pray for.

If you would like us to pray for something, or someone, then please contact Fiona Hedges ([fjhedges1@gmail.com](mailto:fjhedges1@gmail.com)) or Jill Perry ([octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com](mailto:octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com)). Please make it clear if you would like the prayers included in this newsletter, or if you would like them to be prayed for at one of the Benefice prayer sessions, where they will be kept confidential.

Please join us in prayer this week, either by adding the topics to your usual daily prayers or by praying the specific prayers suggested below:

**Sunday: Church Events: Rogation Service, Plant Sales in Kington Magna, Todber and West Stour.**



Glorious Lord, we pray for the Rogation Service today – for good weather, for many people to come to worship you, for fellowship and fun at the picnic. We ask you to bless our land, our farming communities and all who work to provide us with food, enhance our environment and care for your creation. We also pray for the plant sales in our villages, that they will be profitable both financially and in community spirit. Amen.

**Monday: Conflicts throughout the world, especially Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza.**

Almighty God, bring peace to all the nations of the earth, especially between Russian and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. Comfort, heal and strengthen all who are suffering as a result of the conflicts. Protect the innocent. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work for peace. Amen.

**Tuesday: Stour Row**



Good Shepherd, we ask you to bless all who live or work in Stour Row. Thank you for the opportunities for companionship provided by the various events in the Village Hall, and for all who work hard to make those happen. We pray for the people who have bought the church, that it may be a blessing to them and that the presence of the building may continue to be a reminder of your love for all. Amen

**Wednesday: All who are suffering, especially Henrietta (KM), and Margaret (WS); those who are bereaved especially family and friends of Shelia Kerby (KM); those who are struggling financially.**

Merciful Father, comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We remember especially Henrietta (KM), and Margaret (WS) and people we know personally. We also pray for all who are struggling to feed their families, or to pay for their accommodation or their utility bills. Enable them to find resources to help them, and inspire the government to set benefit levels that allow all people to live in security and dignity, regardless of their personal circumstances. Amen.



**Thursday: Ascension Day: That the Church will light up the world through prayer.**

Loving Lord Jesus, send your Holy Spirit. Take our prayers, along with those of all who call you Lord, and use them to influence nations, transform communities, and draw all people into a deeper relationship with you. May your kingdom come into our world. Amen.

**Friday: Persecuted Christians, especially the outcome of the current elections taking place in India.** A hardline Hindu government would make life much harder for Christians in the country.

A prayer from Open Doors: ([www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/india-elections-prayer/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/india-elections-prayer/))

Father God, please bless all our Christian brothers and sisters in India during these elections. May they be protected from harm – either violence, or the misuse of laws. Pour your peace over the election process, and let truth and justice prevail. By Your sovereign power, please use whoever comes to power in each state to uphold religious freedom. Amen.

**Saturday: Ourselves**

Saviour Jesus, pour out your blessing on us and all whom we love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, guide us and guard us, today and always. 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 hands.

*The Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete. Deuteronomy 16:15*

*Holding, lifting, touching serving.* So many things your hands can do. For God, for others, and for you.

Palms lifted up in praise. Fingers wet with wiped away tears or sticky with the messes of children, of life, of service. The work of your hands may not always seem important to you or to a world too busy to notice. But to the one you touch, to the one who's tears you wipe away, and to the One your hands really serve, there are few gifts more precious. God loves the work of your hands.

*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 5<sup>th</sup> May - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> May.

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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 and Clare will also be on leave this Tuesday.



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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