

Stour Vale Letter No.220

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 30th June

10:30am Benefice Communion Fifehead Magdalen

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



Readings for Sunday 30th June

Wisdom 1.13–15; 2.23–24
2 Corinthians 8.7–end

Trinity 5

Psalm 30

Mark 5.21–end

Other Benefice services/events coming up in July:

Every Tuesday – Said Morning Prayer 9:30am West Stour Church (except 2nd July)

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

Monday 15th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall

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

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

Saturday 27th – Prayer Walk Stour Row 10am-12:30pm

Wisdom 1.13-15 2.23-24

¹³ because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living.

¹⁴ For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth.

¹⁵ For righteousness is immortal.

²³ for God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity,

²⁴ but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

2 Corinthians 8:7- end (NIV)

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

¹⁰ And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. ¹² For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”

¹⁶ Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. ¹⁷ For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative.

¹⁸ And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches for his service to the gospel. ¹⁹ What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honour the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. ²⁰ We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. ²¹ For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.

²² In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. ²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honour to Christ. ²⁴ Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

Mark 5:21-end (NIV)

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

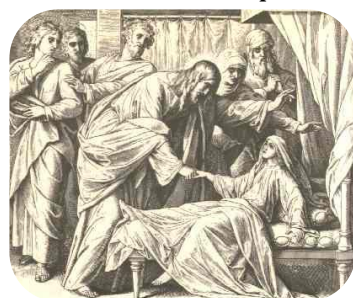
³¹ "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.



After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha kum!*" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Collect and Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 30th June

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 30th June to Saturday 6th July

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.

We are focusing our newsletter prayers on the General Election and the key issues for our politicians, as covered in the Salisbury Diocese's '*Points for Prayer for the General Election*'. The prayer suggested for Sunday and Thursday were written by Martyn Payne for BRF Ministries. (www.brf.org.uk).

Sunday: The General Election: The Economy

God of the marketplace, grant to those we elect wisdom and courage, as they seek to balance positive wealth-creation with compassionate social change, within which managers and workers alike are equally valued and blessed. May the health of our nation be measured not by more and more goods produced, but by ever greater concern for the good of all. Amen



Monday: The General Election: Education

King of Kings, we pray:

- For all those who work in education to feel seen and respected in this campaign period, not just used as a political football.
- That those who work with children and young people feel empowered to speak up and ask questions of those who can effect change.
- That spending commitments to support schools will be made and honoured.
- That hearing and responding to the voice of young people, and the importance of an education system which enables them to flourish, is central to manifesto pledges.

Amen

Tuesday: The General Election: Housing and Homelessness

Sovereign Lord, we pray:

- For the men, women and young people affected by the housing crisis.
- For charities like Big Issue, Shelter, Crisis, and The Salvation Army supporting the homeless.
- That politicians will take the issue of homelessness seriously and not dismiss it with soundbites, such as it being a 'lifestyle choice'.
- For innovative solutions to providing affordable, good quality housing for people to rent and to buy.

Amen



Wednesday: The General Election: Family and Society

Lord of Lords, we pray:

- For an inclusive society that treats everyone with respect, kindness and compassion.
 - For a society in which everyone has a part to play in creating a good and fair community.
 - That the new Government's economic and financial policies will meet people's basic needs.
 - For creative policies to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and cut the cost of energy.
- Amen



Thursday: The General Election: Proverbs 14

Lord of our island kingdom, because you declare that 'righteousness exalts a nation', raise up local and national leaders in this election who will put people before profit, justice before power, truth before popularity, mercy before personal gain, and who seek the good of all people, for your name's sake. Amen

Friday: All who are suffering, especially Henrietta (KM), Roy (T) and Margaret (WS); those who are bereaved; those who suffering from depression or despair.

Merciful Lord, hear us as we remember those we know who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Comfort and heal them. Lift those who are despondent from the dark valley of despair to the bright mountain of hope; from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy. Amen.

Saturday: Stour Row

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Stour Row. We pray for the Prayer Walk around the village in July, that your Holy Spirit will show us where you are working, how we can help, and what you want us to pray for. We pray for the 'Stroll Inn' pop-up-pub and the Sewing Social, that they will provide opportunities for friendships to flourish and community spirit to grow. Please inspire more people to organise, and to help, at village events. Amen.



If you would like us to pray for something, or someone, then please contact Fiona Hedges (fjhedges1@gmail.com) or Jill Perry (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.

God loves the way you see.

*People look at the outward appearance, but Lord looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7*

When you give your heart to God, He changes the way you see yourself, the world, the people around you. You begin to see as God sees.

You see the sadness behind the smile, the pain instead of the scars, the loneliness behind the bitterness, and the desperation beneath the dirt.

And when you see – *truly see* – you can help. You can become the hands and feet of God. And; you can lead the blind to the only one who can open their eyes. So . . . God loves the way you see.

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

Psalm 30 (NIV)

¹ I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths

and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
² Lord my God, I called to you for help,
 and you healed me.
³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
 you spared me from going down to the pit.
⁴ Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
 praise his holy name.
⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
 but his favour lasts a lifetime;
 weeping may stay for the night,
 but rejoicing comes in the morning.
⁶ When I felt secure, I said,
 "I will never be shaken."
⁷ Lord, when you favoured me,
 you made my royal mountain stand firm;
 but when you hid your face,
 I was dismayed.
⁸ To you, Lord, I called;
 to the Lord I cried for mercy:
⁹ "What is gained if I am silenced,
 if I go down to the pit?
 Will the dust praise you?
 Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
¹⁰ Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
 Lord, be my help."
¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
 you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
 Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

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 will be on annual leave from the 27th June until the 11th July

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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

