

Stour Vale Letter No.222

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 14th July

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



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



Readings for Sunday 14th July

Amos 7.7–15
Ephesians 1.3–14

Trinity 7
Psalm 85.8–end
Mark 6.14–29

Other Benefice services/events coming up in July:

Every Tuesday – Said Morning Prayer 9:30am West Stour Church
Every Wednesday – Said Holy Communion 10:30am East Stour Church
Monday 15th – Knit and Natter 2:30pm East Stour Village Hall
Friday 19th July – Service in a Pub 11am The Ship West Stour
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

Stour Vale Benefice
Service
in the
Pub



Friday 19th July

11am for an 11:15am start.

Join us for a drink, a chat and a chance to spend some time with God.

For more details, please contact Fiona Hedges on 01747 838942 or stourvalemessychurch@gmail.com



**The Ship Inn,
West Stour,
SP8 5RP**

Ephesians 1.3–14 (NIV)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Mark 6:14-29 (NIV)

¹⁴ King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

¹⁵ Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of^[c] Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. ²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

Collect and Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 14th July

Collect

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th 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.

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: Services, Magnafest, and the Euros Football Final.

O Lord, whose mercy reaches to the heavens, whose faithfulness knows no end: let the greatness of your love be known to us, that we may worship you with wonder, joy and thanksgiving. Bless the services happening today, and in The Ship Inn on Friday. We pray for Magnafest on Saturday: for good weather, safety, good humour and fun to abound.



We also pray for the Euro 2024 Final today. May it be an event marked by good-humoured rivalry and respect for others, on and off the pitch. Curb incidents of violence, racism, abuse or vandalism. May the players, the officials and the fans be good role models for all those watching. May the winning team be magnanimous in victory and the losing team resilient. Amen.

Monday: World Peace



Come, Lord, into our world of military might and political blindness, to overturn our tired ideas of power and glory, until Your wisdom invades our understanding. Bring peace, especially to Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Sudan and Burkina Faso. Protect the innocent. Comfort the injured and the bereaved. Give courage to the fearful. We also ask for your will to be done in the power struggles in America and

France. Amen.

Tuesday: Todber

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in Todber. We thank you for the sacred space of our church building and for the thousands of people who have worshipped there over the years. We pray that you will guide our plans for its maintenance, especially the provision of a new roof. Amen.



Wednesday: All who are suffering, especially Henrietta (KM), Roy (T) and Margaret (WS); those who are bereaved; the lonely, the housebound.



Merciful Lord, we bring to you those who specially need our prayers, and yet more your presence; the sick, the bereaved, the lonely, the housebound. Save us from being so wrapped up in our own concerns that we forget them, and so busy that we fail to bring them what help and comfort we can. You have given us so much. Make us sensitive to the needs of others, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday: Persecuted Church

Sovereign Lord, we pray for all who are persecuted because of their faith in you. This week we think especially of Somalia, which ranks second in the Open Doors World Watch list of countries where Christians suffer for their faith. We ask for courage and strength for those who risk everything to follow you, and for protection against both Islamic militants and relatives who perceive they are betraying their culture. May they find opportunities for Christian fellowship and encouragement. Amen.

Friday: End of the school year

Loving Father, as the academic year comes to an end we pray for all children and teachers. Watch over them as they embark on their summer adventures. Keep them safe and refresh them. Give them good health, resilience, and the ability to make responsible choices. We pray especially for those leaving school, college or



university. Grant them wisdom, courage, and resilience to face the challenges that lie ahead. May they use their education to make a positive impact on the world. Amen.

Saturday: Ourselves

Generous Lord, thank you for the many blessings you pour out on us, our loved ones, our Benefice, our country and our world. Help us to recognise your actions in our lives, and to be grateful for all that you do for us. Amen.

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

From this week's Grapevine Newsletter

You still have time to respond to the Survey - but only until Sunday!

It is only 11 questions so won't take you long.

Shaping our services - please respond to our survey!

Over the coming months, the DBF will be working with an external researcher to review our offer to Parishes. Here is a [short video](#) of Lianne Howard Dace introducing herself and what she will be doing.

Following the new share model, we are keen to ensure that the services provided by Diocesan teams are really meeting the needs of parishes. Our ambition is to help lighten the administrative burden of staff and volunteers on the ground, so we want to hear what you need to make that happen.

We'd love to hear your voice! **The survey will be closed, Sunday 14 July 2024**

Scan the QR Code below or click on the following link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B3P6DJ6>



Would you like to join a virtual focus group to dig deeper into the findings of the survey results? Please register your interest here.

- 30 July at 17:30 – Lay leaders (Lay chairs, LPAs, LWLs, LLMs, etc)
- 31 July at 14:00 – Ordained leaders
- 31 July at 17:30 – Church wardens, secretaries, Electoral roll and Parish safeguarding officers
- 1 August at 17:30 - Treasurers

[Register your interest here.](#)

God loves your hope.

And I will hope in Your Name, for Your Name is good.

Psalm 52:9

Maybe it's been a rough day or week. Maybe even a rough month or year. It may even have been a rough life. But you keep going. You keep clinging to your Saviour's hand. You keep *hoping*. Because you *know* what is promised, and because you *know* the One who promised is faithful. And because you *know* He loves you and your beautiful shining hope.

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

Psalm 85-end (NIV)

- ⁸ I will listen to what God the Lord says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- ¹² The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
- ¹³ Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

A quick reminder of events coming up in the Benefice:

Saturday 13th July – Buckhorn Weston Fete and Fun Dog Show 2:30pm
on the Village Green and in the village hall – always a great event with lots
of stalls and side shows, along with Children’s races and fun dog classes
including ‘Best Biscuit Catcher’!



**Saturday 20th July – Magnafest (Kington Magna)– Steam and Vintage
vehicle parade at 10:30am to start the day off – stalls from 11am and
running all day through to 10:30pm, with Music, Cider, a 1920 Dutch
Street Organ (lovely Mechanical show organ known to many of us in
Stour Row!) along with the usual country fayre stalls and crafts, a
treasure hunt for the children, food galore and more.**



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



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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

