

Stour Vale Letter No.223

Services in the Stour Vale – Sunday 21st July

9:15am Parish Communion West Stour
10:00am Morning Worship Todber (CW)
6:00pm Evensong East Stour (BCP)



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



Readings for Sunday 21st July

Jeremiah 23.1–6

Ephesians 2.11–end

Trinity 8

Psalm 23

Mark 6.30–34, 53–end

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

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

Ephesians 2:11-end (NIV)

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —

¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-end (NIV)

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things

⁵³When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went—into villages,

towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Collect and Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 21st July

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
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

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of
your life;
glory to you for ever.

Prayer in the Benefice – Sunday 21st to Saturday 27th July

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.

If you would like us to pray for something, or someone (and have permission if asking for someone else), then please contact Jill Perry (octavoeditorsvb@gmail.com).

Sunday: Benefice Events: Services this Sunday, Benefice Lunch.



Amazing God, may your presence be tangible in our worship services today. Fill us with thankfulness and awe so that we praise and glorify you with our thoughts, our words and our deeds. We pray also for the Benefice Lunch on Tuesday, that it may be a time of fellowship and joy for all who go along. Amen.

Monday: Hostages, Prisoners of Conscience and all who are unjustly imprisoned

O Lord, we think of all those who are imprisoned unjustly. For hostages, held for the selfish benefit of their captors; for prisoners of conscience, held for their convictions and refusing to conform; for those wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit. Give them hope and courage to survive their ordeal. Let them know they are not forgotten. Provide for their needs and secure their release. Amen.

Tuesday: West Stour

Faithful Father, please bless all who live or work in West Stour. We thank you for the people who have moved into the village over the past few years, bringing new enthusiasm and engagement across the community. Help us to know how best to serve and support each other. Amen.



Wednesday: All who are suffering, especially Henrietta (KM), Roy (T) and Margaret (WS); all who suffer long-term conditions



Merciful Lord, we hold before you all who are suffering, especially those who have suffered for many years; those who know they have only a short time left to live; those who face an operation; those who can never leave their chair or bed; and all those who watch and wait with them. Amen.

Thursday: The Church of England

Great High Priest, we pray for the Church of England. Please bless our archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons and all in positions of power or influence. Give them wisdom and discernment, courage and faithfulness. We pray for all who worship within the Anglican community. Bind us together, Lord and make us one body in Christ. May we work together in pilgrimage and discipleship. Amen.

Friday: Climate Change

Loving Father, we know our actions have consequences, and we want to care for your creation and do our part to protect the environment. However, it is so hard to know what is the right thing to do. Often things that we are told are good turn out to have other, hidden, consequences. Help us, and all who can make a difference, to see through the agendas of businesses, the media and lobbyists to really understand the issues and the solutions, then give us the bravery and the commitment to promote long-term resolutions and to take effective action. Amen.



Saturday: Holidays and Relaxation

Heavenly Father, we thank you for holidays and all times of rest and relaxation. May the summer give opportunities for us to spend time enjoying: the company of our families and friends; the joy of being outdoors; the uplifting effect of sunshine; the chance to stop *doing* and just *be*. In all our experiences make us aware of your presence smiling on us. Amen.

God loves your quirks.

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
Psalm 139:1*

Can you balance a spoon on the end of your nose? Or hum the entire *William Tell* Overture from start to finish? Or maybe you know the entire play-by-play of baseball's famous "Who's on first?" Everyone has her own special talents, her own unique ways, here . . . quirks. They are all part of God's gift to you – even the quirkiest quirks – and they're just one more thing that He loves about you.

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

Psalm 23 (NIV)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

A quick reminder it's Magnafest tomorrow:

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.



Smile Lines

How did you spell that?

A friend who wished to check some point on aeronautics asked in his library for books on Metropolitan Vickers. He was handed a copy of Crockford's Clerical Directory. - *The Times Diary 7 January 1987*

Den

When W A Gilbert arrived at a provincial hotel to stay the night, he was alarmed to find it filled by clergymen attending a theological conference. He confessed: "I felt like a lion in a den of Daniels."
Hesketh Pearson, Gilbert & Sullivan

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

