



Diocese
of Salisbury
Making
Jesus Known

The Wylye and Till Valley Benefice



***Berwick St James, Great Wishford, Little Langford, South Newton and Stoford,
Stapleford, Steeple Langford, Stockton, Winterbourne Stoke and Wylye with
Fisherton de la Mere***

<https://www.wylyeandtillvalleybenefice.org/>

<https://www.wylyeandtillvalleybenefice.org/sermons>

**Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21**

Sunday 3rd August – 7th Sunday after Trinity (CW)

09:30am	Stockton	Morning Prayer (Change)
09:30am	Berwick St James	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	South Newton	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Stapleford	Sunday Worship
11:00am	Wylye	Sunday Worship
6:00pm	Little Langford	Evensong (BCP)

Dear Friends,

A voice from the crowd questions Jesus: Jesus not just offers a warning about greed; He continues His line of teaching. We just need the ears to hear.

Jesus has taught His friends many times that there is a ‘Jesus’ way’ to real life, and that even though this will be hard, the Holy Spirit will be with them to show them the way, so they have nothing to fear about what is to come. This is Jesus’ core teaching about trusting and joining God as demonstrated after the parable of the rich farmer: *“do not worry about your life”* Jesus declares, and *“strive for God’s kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Or, as in the Gospel story for this Sunday, do not build bigger barns, for when God gives you more than enough, it’s time to look outward and share it with others.

So, we have a very successful farmer whose land *“produces abundantly”* and his first thought is how to keep this bumper harvest for himself, rather than thinking about God and discerning the Spirit’s direction on how to sell this bounty or share it with others. Greed and wealth are powers which get hold of us; they narrow our vision and focus. Being rich is a *self*-interested condition that blinds us as to how to be rich towards God or to understand the challenges and needs of our neighbours near and far. For sure, the farmer is thinking ahead, investing *now* for *his* future. Yet, the farmer is providing for himself—just as he thinks to himself, speaks to himself, plans for himself, stores for himself, measuring himself by wealth, success and gain. This is not God’s way! Jesus warns therefore: *“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”*

We are called not to measure ‘stuff’ or ‘store up for ourselves’ which prevents us from being obedient to God. We are called to be rich toward God by blessing others as God would have us do. This is a key message of Scripture, of the prophets, Wisdom literature and the Psalms, of Jesus and of Paul in his letters. The bottom line: instead of being self-focused, may we become rich towards God, wondering and listening about how to share what God has given. Amen.

Please pray for

The long-term need for prayer	David Baldwin (South Newton), Joyce Binder (Steeple Langford), Thea Chalke; Pat Considine (Steeple Langford), Biddy Cox (Wyllye), Anton Funnell; Andrew and June Howes (Wyllye), Delia Napier (Wyllye); Valerie Palmer (Wyllye), Sheena Pratt (Stapleford),
The urgent sick	
The Departed	Gill Brasher (BSJ)
Those being baptized	
Weddings	Alex Kerslake and Hannah Lockwood, at St Peter's Winterbourne Stoke this Sunday

From the Benefice Prayer Sheet

3	7th Sunday after Trinity We pray for the church and village community of Wyllye, for The Bell, for Fisherton Delamere, their Churchwardens Roger Liddiard and Sally Eldridge and the Wyllye Church Council
4	We pray for bell ringers across the benefice and for the continued dedication and service to the churches and people of the valley. We remember the bells of Great Wishford, South Newton, Stapleford, Steeple Langford and Wyllye.
5	We pray for our local GP surgeries, health and care home professionals at this time; we hold the all staff of Odstock Hospital in our prayers. Amen.
6	The Transfiguration of Our Lord; Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
7	We pray for the church and village community of Berwick St James; for Bill Hiscocks and James Douse Churchwardens of Berwick St James and for members of the PCC
8	We pray for peace with justice throughout the world and in particular for Ukraine, the Yemen, Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, Afghanistan, the Holy Land, West Africa. We remember all migrant, refugees and those fleeing persecution. Amen.
9	Creator of All, we raise our hearts in grateful praise for all the beauty that surrounds us. May we learn to respect all as a sacred gift and do what we can to repair the damage we have caused through our consumerism, greed, and carelessness. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.
10	8th Sunday after Trinity Almighty and eternal God, in Your hands are the hopes of humanity and the rights of all people: Assist with Your wisdom those who govern us, so that, with Your help, they will become sensitive to the sufferings of the poor and of those who suffer the consequences of violence and war; may they promote the common good and lasting peace for the whole world. Amen.

Sunday 10th August – 8th Sunday after Trinity

09:30am	Winterbourne Stoke	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Steeple Langford	Holy Communion (CW)
6:00pm	Great Wishford	Evensong (BCP)

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Monday is Jonathan's day off