



**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>

**Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2;  
Luke 12:49-56**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

09:30am	Great Wishford	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Berwick St James	Matins (BCP)
11:00am	Wylye	Holy Communion (CW)
6:00pm	Stockton	Evening Worship

Dear Friends,

In this time of great polarity and division, I think we can very well understand the situation of *“father against son... and daughter against mother.”*

Jesus expresses His own frustration given that His ministry was to fulfil God’s redemptive purposes, demonstrating how we must seek and live out the will and love of God in Creation. Jesus brought God’s purifying fire into our world, where His baptism was symbolic of His calling as the Messiah. Yet, Jesus had to face rejection from the Powers who sought to tear down what He built. This is why Jesus wished for the *final judgment* (end days) to herald in the new heaven and new earth, overcoming our rebellion and infighting. In the reconciling Kingdom, everything will be the perfect fullness of God’s purpose. This is God’s plan and we are involved.

It is hard to accept that Jesus, as the *Prince of Peace*, came not to bring peace precisely because human interests and powers are diametrically opposed to God’s will. It makes sense, then, that when any one of us “sees *the light*” and accepts Jesus as Lord, it will inevitably cause conflict with our family and neighbours, all who have not committed themselves to Jesus, conflict and rebellion only resolved on “the final day”. Until then trying to live as Jesus commands is demanding and we shall need His strength to keep going.

Jesus is clear that He and the Spirit *will* empower us to interpret the times we live in. Yes, we can deny what Jesus is proposing, we can hang on to our selfish interests and desires, including our perceptions of faith. But are we not to ask “*What does the Lord require of me?*” Scripture says, “*To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God*” (Micah 6.8), *and to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. And love your neighbour as yourself*”. (Mark 12.29-31)

Understanding and living out these commands will cause division. Jesus proves that, for did he not suffer for challenging the status quo for the sake of the good news? The question is: are we willing to interpret what we see around us, look for the work of the Spirit and listen for God's call to do what is right? Sin, turning away from God is pervasive ~ are we so innocent as we think? Are we courageous enough to reject false truths. Will we be part of Jesus's kingdom coming, or will we be part of the problem of not knowing the times we are living in? Food for thought. Amen.

## Please pray for

<b>The long-term need for prayer</b>	David Baldwin (South Newton), Joyce Binder (Steeple Langford), Thea Chalke; Pat Considine (Steeple Langford), Biddy Cox (Wyllye), Anton Funnell; Ro Griffiths (Great Wishford); Louisa Halliday (Great Wishford); Andrew and June Howes (Wyllye), Delia Napier (Wyllye); Valerie Palmer (Wyllye), Sheena Pratt (Stapleford),
<b>The urgent sick</b>	
<b>The Departed</b>	Gill Brasher (BSJ)
<b>Those being baptized</b>	
<b>Weddings</b>	

## From the Benefice Prayer Sheet

17	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> God of All Life, we give thanks for Earth, our common home, and ask forgiveness for all the unreasonable demands we have made on it. As our Earth, its many peoples, its oceans, wild life and ecosystems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centred on ourselves, but on all you have created. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.
18	We pray for the church and village community of South Newton and the Church Council.
19	We pray for the work of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at the Langford Lakes Nature Reserve, for its staff and their contribution to nature in our community
20	We pray for those going off on holidays: may you travel safely and, wherever you are, walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go. Amen.
21	We pray for the church and village community of Little Langford and their Churchwarden Beth Andrews
22	God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet. Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name. Amen.
23	We pray for Stephen, Archbishop of York and for Bishop Stephen, and Bishops Karen and Andrew at this time of change within the Diocese and the Church of England.
24	<b>Bartholomew the Apostle: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> We pray for the church & village community of Steeple Langford, for Bob Ogilvie and Jo Pearce their Churchwardens and the local ministry team

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – St Bartholomew's Day

09:30am	Little Langford	Holy Communion (BCP)
11:00am	Stapleford	Holy Communion (CW)
6:00pm	Steeple Langford	Evening Service for St Bartholomew's Day

Rev'd Jonathan Plows,  
RECTOR

[Rectorwtv@gmail.com](mailto:Rectorwtv@gmail.com) 01722 790616

Rev'd Roger Leake

[revrleake@gmail.com](mailto:revrleake@gmail.com)

Associate Priest

Tel: 07947149456

**Monday is Jonathan's day off**