

For your prayers:

- We continue to pray for Sue and Roy Bingham, Sarah, Emily, Kerri, Pat, Rosemary, Morgan, Jean Glenister, Peter Grieves, Helen Langford, Alison Lean, Margaret Tyler, Judith Zapora, Joy Ambler, Josh and family, Christine Green, Bridgitte Attwood, Julie Taylor, Amelia Ball, Emily, Charlotte, Edward, Molly and her family, Sue and Chris, Isla and her family, Cheryl Ramsden, Kim Odhams, Jenny Thomas and Phyllis Cripps
- Those who feel the loss of a loved one are in our prayers. We pray with Sonny and Lisa and Carol Clark at this time.
- This week, we remember the anniversary of the passing of: Ruth Jenken, Alice Birchett, Rosetta Brooks, John Talbot, Roy Knock, Kathleen Pilcher, Peter Dawson, Kathleen Ashdown, Reginald Caulfield, Peter Gray and Evelyn Brooks.

If you would like to include the name of someone in need of prayer, let us know:

office@stourdowns.org.uk or 01303 470791.

The cost of continuing our ministry and the upkeep of six historic church buildings needs to be met. To make a donation, scan the QR code and follow the instructions on your phone, or, to set up monthly planned giving; the Stour Downs Parish Bank account details are: Sort Code: 60-01-21 Account Number: 56761422 any contribution would be so helpful, contact the Parish Treasurer Anne Puttick for further information—anneputtick@yahoo.com

Thank you!



Contact Us

Vicar: Rev Chris Denyer

01303 470791 (Smeeth Rectory)

07526688826 (Parish Mobile)

vicar@stourdowns.org.uk

Current day off is Saturday

Curate: Rev. Susan Manners

revsusanmanners@gmail.com

01233 500414 (Mersham Rectory)

Parish Administrator: Liz Richardson

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Twitter @DownsStour

Facebook: Stour Downs Parish



Safeguarding

The Stour Downs Parish is committed to the safety and welfare of all. If you have any questions or concerns of a safeguarding nature please speak to our Parish Safeguarding Officer Judy Hawkins - contact 01233 502746 or the Parish Office 01303 470791 or safeguarding@stourdowns.org.uk



Round the Stour Downs

The next services are on:

Sunday 5th September

9.30am in Smeeth

and on Facebook

Parish Communion

with Blessing of the Backpacks

10.00am in Brabourne

Story, Praise and Celebrate

11.00am in Mersham

Story, Song and Celebrate

with Blessing of the Backpacks

3.00pm in Sellindge

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday 12th September

9.30am in Mersham

and on Facebook

Parish Communion

11.00am in Brabourne

Holy Communion

6.00pm in Stowting

Evening Communion

Sunday 19th September

9.30am in Smeeth

and on Facebook

Parish Communion

11.00am in Stowting

Harvest Story, Song and Celebrate

6pm in Brabourne

Evening Communion at

Harvest—Time

Join us on the

Stour Downs Parish

Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-](https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319)

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Morning and Evening Prayer is on the Stour Downs Facebook page at 9.15am and 5pm

Readings for this Sunday

James 2. 1-10,14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Collect

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Stour Downs Food Bank

If you are able to, please could you help with a donation to the Stour Downs Food Bank? A collection box is in the Rectory Porch in Smeeth there is also a collection box at Sellindge Primary school. Any non perishable foods such as canned goods or pasta and cereals, long-life juices and milk are welcome any toiletries would help too.

Mark 7. 24-37

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Good News!

First Friday on 3rd September in St Mary the Virgin Brabourne starts at 6pm. Join us for drinks, nibbles and chat.

On Saturday 4th September Stuart and Heather Dove are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Smeeth have a coffee morning on Thursday 9th September from 10.30-12 noon at Fiddler's Green Pound Lane

Favourite Walks of Stour Downs.

If you are interested in buying a booklet, they cost £5 which will support our churches.

Please contact Maggie Smith:
parishmag_gie@btinternet.com or
Tel: 01303 813746