

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



7th February 2021
2 Before Lent

I spoke to a friend today in floods of tears. Her neighbour's son, aged 42, has had a massive heart attack as a result of complications due to the coronavirus. He had had his vaccination just two days before but his body was already fighting the virus. He has severe brain damage as a result of the heart attack and is now described as a 'vegetable'. His life support machine is going to be turned off this week.

I have really struggled during lockdown 3.0 but today I feel grateful to be writing this for the front of Partners. One of the challenges of loving others as Jesus taught us is trying to avoid giving 'reasons' for why people are ill or die in the way that they do. Because the person in question has underlying health conditions and is overweight, somehow we think it is our right to 'share' this information with others. Statistics in the public domain encourage us to judge life and death using worldly definitions but the Bible tells us that death is not the end and that God is in control and loves us.

I am reminded that this human being is going to be a statistic but created in His image, deserves to be remembered for more than his health. I am also reminded to be more careful with the information I have and the information I share. It is not my job to explain.

Jo Heath

St Mary's
Fordingbridge
SP6 1BB

St Mary's
Breamore
SP6 2DF

Holy Ascension
Hyde
SP6 2QJ

St Giles
Godshill
SP6 2JJ

St Boniface
Woodgreen
SP6 2AJ

St Mary's
Hale
SP6 2RF

Sandleheath
Uniting Church
SP6 1PT

Readings for this week
7th February 2021
2 Before Lent

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 104:26-32 *(For Morning Prayer)*

26. O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

27. There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

28. There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.

29. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

30. When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

31. When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

32. When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ is the embodiment of all that God is

¹⁵ Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

At the end, the Reader says:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel Reader

When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

John 1:1-14

Jesus is God's Word for us.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ⁴ What has come

into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

At the end, the Reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(At the end, the Reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.)

(c) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN

Please send all requests for prayer to prayer@avonvalleychurches.org.uk. If you feel able to commit to regular prayer for those on the list and wish to become a prayer partner, please make contact via the above e-mail address.



IN & ABOUT: Monday, Thought for the Day and Benefice and Deanery Meetings. **Wednesday**, Morning Prayer, Mothers' Union Service, and Benefice of the Future Meeting during the afternoon. **Thursday**, Staff Communion and Meeting in the morning, followed by Burley PCC (to discuss pastoral reorganisation). In the afternoon, a meeting of 'Heartedge', and interesting movement led by the Revd Sam Wells of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, with a Schools and Home assembly in the middle. Governor Training in the evening. **Friday**, Deanery Standing Committee and the usual visits to all the Churches in the afternoon.

THANK YOU : Last Saturday morning I found a basket of flowers on my doorstep! They are beautiful and happily will last for quite some time. Thank you Gary and every one and thank you too for all your kind words. I have enjoyed writing reflections so much which accounts for being unaware of the time slipping by! I hope the new 'writers' will enjoy it as much.

Thanks to Mike Ireland who has helped me over the last few weeks.

Many, many thanks to Gail who with her patience and good humour has seen me through all my traumas with the computer. Daphne Himmel

PRAYER FOR THE NATION : The Archbishops have urged us to pray for the nation, especially at 6.00 each evening. Resources and prayer ideas are included in the Partners e-mails this week, and also there are copies in the Church porches. The on-line versions can be found by searching for 'C of E Prayer for the Nation'. This could be a very good Lenten practice.

PASTORAL CHALLENGES : Kate will be running a refresher training session on Monday 8th February 2021 at 11.00am over Zoom. This will be looking at how we can help people who are suffering loss, complicated grief and loneliness, during the next few months of the Pandemic.

Meeting ID: 889 6940 9471 and Passcode: 169309 (direct link in Partners email)

BIBLE STUDY Men and Women in the Bible : There will be **two** bible study session this week on Monday 8th February at 3.30pm and **Thursday** 11th February at 3.30. I am sorry we cannot do Wednesday as we have a Benefice of the Future Meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The Bible Passages we will be looking at are Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:15-25. You can look at different versions in you go to the Bible Gateway Website on a computer which is really interesting. This will be the last in this session as we will be staring the Lent course on the run up to Easter.

Meeting ID: 874 1317 8133 and Passcode: 995430 (direct link in Partners email)

LENT is approaching fast. No pancakes together on **Shrove Tuesday** (Feb 16th) this year, sadly – you'll have to do that at home; but you can bring your pancakes to a special showing of '**The Greatest Showman**' on Zoom at 7.00p.m., in preparation for the Lent Groups – details below.

On **Ash Wednesday** (Feb 17th) there will be special on-line (and by phone –see over) Communions at 10.00 (BCP) and 7.00 (CW) for the whole of the AVC.

Lent Groups this year, will be on-line, weekly, on **Monday mornings**, 10.30-12.00, **Tuesday evenings**, 7.00-8.30, and **Wednesday afternoons**, 2.00-3.30, from the week of February 22nd, to March 24th (one exception Tuesday, March 23rd is PCC, so we'll meet on March 30th instead). We will be looking at a course called '**From Now On –Hope & Redemption**', by Rachel Mann, based on the film, 'The Greatest Showman' – we wanted something enjoyable and uplifting for this year – details of how to view this above. For those unable to join us on-line or by phone, copies of the book and film (either DVD, or via Netflix, etc) are available to order on-line. If you need us to order the book or DVD for you, contact the Office before Friday 12th Feb – no orders accepted after that. Gary.

The Zoom details for all the Lent Groups - Monday Mornings (10.00), Tuesday Evenings (7.00), Wednesday Afternoons (2.00) – from Feb 22nd **AND** 'The Greatest Showman' (a viewing of the film before we study it) on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 16th, 7.00p.m.

Meeting ID: 838 2153 3016 and Passcode: 877953 (direct link in Partners email).

COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE : We will be having on-line coffee after the morning service each week. Everyone is welcome to join us. *Meeting ID 646 331 066 Password 123654.* The direct link which will also let you in, will be in the Partner's email.

MORNING PRAYER : On Mondays and Wednesdays at 9am, Morning Prayer is said together on Zoom, and anyone is welcome to join in. Log-in details are *Meeting ID: 157 284 292 and Password: 764200*

PASTORAL CARE IN THE AVC and OF OUR ON-LINE CONGREGATIONS : The Pastoral Visitors support parishioners by visiting, phoning, praying with them, and in other ways. If you or anyone you know needs our support, please contact pastoralcareleaders@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or phone the Church Office. .

ON-LINE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES – If you know of any families who might like to join in the Thursday on-line Zoom Assembly, please be in touch with Gary, who can let you have the details.

CHURCHES OPEN/CLOSED : The following has been agreed during this lockdown :

- Public worship ceases in all of our Churches until February 21st, at which point the situation will be reviewed;
- Worship will continue to be streamed from our Churches or from homes as is most appropriate for each occasion;
- Pastoral Care of congregations and communities will continue to be developed
- Our online community will continue to be developed.

The following has been decided for each church :

Fordingbridge	will be open for prayer from 10-4
Sandleheath and Godshill	will be closed
Hale and Woodgreen	will remain open for prayer each day
Hyde and Breamore	will be closed until 21st February

During the Lockdown: There will be **Services** on-line each Sunday at 10.00, and some 8.15s and 6.00 Sanctus/Evening Prayers as well. **Thought for the Day** every weekday and the **Saturday Conversation** at 10.00.

ACCESS TO ON-LINE WORSHIP : Whilst our services will continue to be streamed live on-line either via Facebook, Zoom or our website (and available afterwards on YouTube); all services are also available on our new **telephone line**, 01425 543305, charged at your normal local rate. If you want to listen to live or recorded worship (and to hear Gary's cheerful greeting!), it's usually easier to put your phone onto speakerphone, so you can sit back and enjoy.

CUPCAKES! : We are offering every child/young person in Fordingbridge a special AVC cupcake from the Cottage Loaf during half term. A sign-up link for families has been sent to local preschools, primary and secondary schools as well as to local home schooling families. If you would like to make a donation towards this outreach, do let Kate Wilson know kate.wilson501@gmail.com

REFLECTION : In Corinthians St. Paul writes whoever sows sparsely will also reap sparsely and whoever sows abundantly will also reap abundantly. Farmers and gardeners will recognise this as common practice. But Paul is not talking of farming and gardening . He continues, decide in your heart what to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion. Give what you can afford and what you are happy with, for the Heavenly Father is happy with a cheerful giver, it is also the Lords wish for us to rejoice with gladness in giving. Paul is obviously commenting on donating to charity & helping the poor and needy. He continues, a cheerful giver will be enriched in every way, his benevolence stands fast forever the Lord will multiply and swell the harvest of your generosity to all receivers. Jesus said "Whoever gives and helps the least of his neighbours, gives and helps me, and my Father who is in Heaven will reward you".

Michael Ireland

This Week

7th February 2021

2 Before Lent

Online/live streamed services via Facebook, Website or Faith Online and available afterwards on YouTube

Sunday 7 Feb	8.15am	Holy Communion	On-line
	10.00am	Allsorts	On-line
	6.00pm	Sanctus	On-line

Mon to Fri	10.00am	Thought for the Day	
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Mon 8	9.00am	Morning Prayer (Meeting ID: 157 284 292, Password: 764200)	On-line (Zoom)
	11.00am	Pastoral Challenges (see inside)	Zoom
	3.30pm	Bible Study	Zoom
Wed 10	9.00am	Morning Prayer (details as Monday)	On-line (Zoom)
Thurs 11	3.30pm	Bible Study	Zoom
Sat 13	10.00am	The Saturday Conversation	On-line

Sunday 14 Feb	10.00am	Holy Communion	On-line
	6.00pm	Evensong	On-line

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TO VISITORS

Contact : Gail Newell or Jackie Rowe, Parish Administrators
Email : office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or call 01425 653163
Website : www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk