

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



24th September 2023 - Trinity 16

Abbot Christopher Jamison has recently written a new book entitled “Finding the Language of Grace.” He is a Benedictine monk and so is familiar with the discipline of silence and the importance of listening. The Rule of St Benedict speaks of listening with “the ear of the heart.”

I wonder when you last felt truly listened to? Facebook and Instagram encourage us to share our stories but for all our constant scrolling does anybody really give attention? Is there an app which might help us know when we are truly listened to? Christopher Jamison observes that young people do not often need a good ‘talking’ to. Rather, they need a good ‘listening’ to.

Part of our listening is the offer of an attentive silence. This may mean avoiding the easy response of “I know how you feel” (we probably do not). It may mean avoiding preparing a reply because that may stop us really listening. Instead, it may mean being prepared to offer silence or perhaps a few words reflecting back what has been said without necessarily adding our own thoughts.

Silence, says Abbot Christopher, is part of the language of grace. It is the offering of a space, a kind of hospitality that enables others to tell their story. Such listening has been offered to great effect by the Truth and Reconciliation commission in South Africa and in Northern Ireland. Perhaps it is also key to discovering the presence of Christ in our everyday lives?

Canon Nigel Coates

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

We welcome all, especially visitors and those attending for the first time. If you need gluten free wafers at Communion, please speak to someone at the door before the service.

Please take this newsletter home with you for the week ahead. God Bless!

Readings for this Week:

24th September 2023

Trinity 16

COLLECT:

Lord of creation,
your glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45

1. O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2. Sing to him, sing praises,
and tell of all his marvellous works.
3. Rejoice in the praise of his holy name;
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.
4. Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his face continually.
5. Remember the marvels he has done,
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
6. O seed of Abraham his servant,
O children of Jacob his chosen.
37. Then he brought them out with silver and gold;
there was not one among their tribes that stumbled.
38. Egypt was glad at their departing,
for a dread of them had fallen upon them.
39. He spread out a cloud for a covering
and a fire to light up the night.
40. They asked and he brought them quails;
he satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
41. He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out
and ran in the dry places like a river.

42. For he remembered his holy word
and Abraham, his servant.
43. So he brought forth his people with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.
44. He gave them the lands of the nations
and they took possession of the fruit of their toil,
45. That they might keep his statutes
and faithfully observe his laws.
Alleluia.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 1:21-30

Paul encourages the Christians in Philippi to live faithful lives.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have .

At the end, the Reader says:

This is 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 *Matthew*

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

It is God's estimation of us that counts, not what we think others deserve.

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴ and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷ They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³ But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

c) *New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible*

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.)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Wednesday Night Meditation Drop in sessions will be **stopping**. This has been a hard decision but the sessions have not been well supported. Thank you to those few who have come occasionally. If anybody wants to meditate at a different time or venue please let me know and I will see what I can do. Sue Ledger

Hyde Bring and Share Lunch – Don't forget that we have now returned to our normal pattern on the fourth Sunday after the August break. Our 10 am Communion Service will therefore be followed by Coffee and then a time of discussion before our Bring & Share lunch. Do join us for the discussion and lunch if you can.

Day of Prayer for a New Rector. Saturday 30th September. The timetable for the times to come to pray in our churches is as follows: Hale 11 – 11.30am, Woodgreen 11.45 – 12.15, Fordingbridge 12.30 – 1.30pm, Breamore 2 – 3pm and Hyde 3.15 – 4.15pm.

Breamore Harvest Festival and Lunch - On Sunday 1st October, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival at the Morning Service at 10am. As usual, we will welcome any contributions of non-perishable items, which will then be donated to the Trussell Trust foodbank. As is our custom at this event, the **Harvest Lunch** will follow the service at **12 noon in the Hulse Hall**, where coffee will be available between the service and lunch. Everyone is welcome – there is no charge but you can make a donation if you wish - so please bring family and friends to enjoy this time together. It would be helpful for catering to know numbers in advance if possible, so please speak to me in church, or email mary.awdford@btopenworld.com or call 07710288361 also advising me of any dietary requirements. However, we always have plenty of food so just come along if you can. Mary Melbourne (LLM)

Fordingbridge Harvest lunch 1st October 12 noon for 12.30.

We still have space at the harvest lunch so if you had intended to book but haven't please call or email Mark Ward **by Wednesday 27th at 5pm**. Adult tickets, £10, children up to 13, £5. Please bring your own drinks. When contacting Mark please give any dietary requirements. 07833 477834 or mark@fordingbridge.com There will also be a raffle.

Harvest Gifts, St Mary's Fordingbridge: Please bring your harvest gifts of tins, packets, dried foods and long-life items for Ringwood & Fordingbridge Foodbank on **Sunday 1st October**. Donations will be very much appreciated at all services at St Mary's Fordingbridge on 1st October. Thank you.

Harvest on the Farm-On Sunday 1st October, we will be celebrating Harvest at **Home Farm, Hale, SP6 2RE**. All are welcome to join us at this traditional setting for Harvest. Come along at 10am, we will be having fellowship & coffee etc afterwards, so will have plenty of time to come along and then join in with the Harvest lunches across the Parish. Our thanks to Helen and Mark Clark once again for hosting this event! The Church Family of Hale and Woodgreen.

Avon Valley Men's Fellowship: Our next men's group supper will be at the Old Beams pub in Ibsley on **Wednesday 4th October**. We will be meeting at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. After the one course supper our speaker will be Andrew Clarke. Andrew is one of our members from Poulner Baptist church and he will be speaking about his varied career in the public sector, including local authorities and the police. If you would like to come please contact Stephen Darke for more information and menu choices. E-mail - darkefamily@btinternet.com or phone 01425 656988.

Jonathan Veira concert – St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge - October 7th, 7:30pm. Internationally acclaimed singer and humorous raconteur, Jonathan Veira, star of stage, screen, TV, churches and halls across the globe, from Guildford to Jerusalem, from Lymington to La Scala, is bringing his entertaining one-man show to us to raise funds for our church, on 7th October. Further information and tickets (£10) via our website, the Church Office, Rhoda Coates, Barry Groves, Woodgreen Village Shop or Melvyn Beynon (07711 469412).

JIGSAW FEST 2023! October 14th and 15th 10am - 4pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Fordingbridge.

First - please bring your boxed puzzles and any puzzles on boards to the HALL on Saturday 30th September 9.30 - 11.30am and Sunday 8th October 11.15 - 12.15am. Any queries phone Viv 01725 512267.

Second - on both days, we shall need helpers! We need people to help Jean in the kitchen and people to help in the hall - you will need to be fit and able to carry/move puzzles around, some of which will be on the stage. Some puzzles will just be in boxes, some on boards. We need people to take money for entry and sales.

Third - We shall also need donations of CAKES, TRAY BAKES, COOKIES.

So..... there are ROTAS and LISTS at the back of St Mary's Church Fordingbridge. Please sign up for whatever you feel able to help with - everything will be much appreciated. This is one of our major fundraising events since lockdown and will continue to bring our lovely community together. Any queries phone Viv 01725 512267 or Jean 01202 822187

Parish Rectory Garden – Saturday 21st October 9am-1pm. The garden was rescued back in June and July but a small number of volunteers. We need to have a much larger work-party from right across the parish to tidy the garden before winter, weeding the borders, cutting back the lavender, and some further pruning of the shrubs. All of the hedges will need a good trim and two relatively small trees need to be removed. On the basis of many hands make light work please can I encourage as many people as possible to join us on the day. Refreshments will be provided and there will be all sorts of jobs available to suit all abilities. If there are good numbers from across the parish it would free up some Fordingbridge people to deal with the area where the old parish office used to be. Please bring hand tools, gloves etc. If you can spare 30 minutes – 1 hour at any time before then the front garden can always be weeded. Just leave the rubbish at the edge of the drive. Mark Ward

Wanted! Clean clothing for Bournemouth homeless Hope for Food charity. All men's clothing (underwear and even odd socks especially needed) - ladies pants only. Please leave your donations in the food trolley. With thanks Sarah Perrelle.

Winchester Cathedral passes We received 6 free passes for Winchester Cathedral entry which can be used by us until the end of March 2025. They are at the church office and can be borrowed by any of the congregation wishing to visit (with family or friends), but if you do borrow them please ensure you return them! You will need to arrange with Zoe to pick them up.

ITEMS FOR PARTNERS need to be sent to the Church Office (e-mail address below) by 5.00p.m. on **Wednesdays**. Please put 'Partners' in the e-mail subject line. Thank you, Zoe

Church Wardens' News

Just over a week ago, a small group met to discuss what our Parish-wide work with children looks like. There were representatives from all 4 'corners' of the Parish and also from the AV Community Matters team.

The idea was to exchange information of what is going on, so that we all might be better informed and might have the opportunity to join up the dots, when we're in our particular sphere, we might then be able to advise families what else is on offer.

Given that we are currently in a vacancy I think it we did an examination of our children's work and it's health, we would probably say it is in 'rude' health. Of course, there's always more that could be done but our provision of a Messy Church, Allsorts, School Assemblies and Open the Book, not to mention Fair Trade Tuck Shops, pre-school activities, playgroups and school holiday activities demonstrate there's a great deal going on!

Sometimes it's hard to feel hopeful or positive when so much around us seems not to be going well, but our Parish-wide Children's Ministry is certain something to be thankful for. If you feel called to be a part of it please speak to someone in your local church who is involved, let God help you develop your God-given talent and gifts with this ministry.

Ruth Crosland LLM

CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN TO VISITORS between 10.00 am and 12.00
Contact via Email : Office@AvonValleyChurches.org.uk or call 01425 653163 between 10.00 am and 12.00 or
leave a message Website : www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk

Trinity 16

24th September

Online services available via Facebook or Website
at 'Avon Valley Churches'

Sunday	8.15 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
24th Sept	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wed 27 th	10.00 am	Frogham Chapel	Informal Communion
Fri 29 th	10.30am	Woodgreen	Fairtrade Coffee Morning
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
1st Oct	10.00 am	Breamore	Morning Service (Harvest Festival)
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts (Harvest Festival)
	10.00 am	Hale	Harvest on the Farm (Home Farm SP6 2RE)
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	The Six O'Clock Service