

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 - Trinity 19

We all love a Royal Wedding-the pageantry and wedding paraphernalia that accompanies the ceremony. Those of us who are or have been married will also remember the decisions made in planning.

Today's gospel story from Matthew talks about a Royal Wedding Banquet. All extensive preparations had been made and the invitations sent. But, whoops! Those invited would not come. The father sent his servants to enquire why. Apparently, they were all too busy getting on with their lives and seized and killed the servants.

The king sent out more servants and with a mandate to invite all they could find both good' and 'bad'. Whoops, again! One of these guests was not dressed befitting a wedding garment and the king threw him out.

What do you make of this parable? Notice that the parable is addressed to the Jewish religious leaders. God had been faithful throughout their history. The killing of the servants alludes to the killing of the prophets. Yes, a faithful remnant of Israel existed. With the coming of his son Jesus, God again demonstrates his faithfulness and gift of wholeness (salvation) of the kingdom; but this time there are no barriers to whom that gift is given-it is for everyone.

Sadly, this storyline has taken a turn this week in the conflict raging between Israel and the Palestinians. Whilst judgement lies with all who kill and maim other human beings, both the 'few' and the 'many' remain God's concern. The kingdom is built on being clothed with the wedding garment of peace, humility, powerlessness, compassion and above all costly love. We pray earnestly for all caught up in these hostilities, and for a cessation of these hostilities.

John Towler

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:

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Trinity 19

## COLLECT:

Faithful Lord,  
whose steadfast love never ceases  
and whose mercies never come to an end:  
grant us the grace to trust you  
and to receive the gifts of your love,  
new every morning,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

## PSALM 106:1-6 19-23

- 1 Alleluia. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,  
for his faithfulness endures for ever.
- 2 Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord  
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Blessed are those who observe what is right  
and always do what is just.
- 4 Remember me, O Lord, in the favour you bear for your people;  
visit me in the day of your salvation;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your chosen  
and rejoice in the gladness of your people,  
and exult with your inheritance.
- 6 We have sinned like our forebears;  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 19 They made a calf at Horeb  
and worshipped the molten image;
- 20 Thus they exchanged their glory  
for the image of an ox that feeds on hay.
- 21 They forgot God their saviour,  
who had done such great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach,  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

## **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians**

*Philippians 4:1-9*

*Christians are urged to set their minds on things of God, and God's peace  
will be with them.*

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. <sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*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.)**

*The parable of the marriage feast, which emphasizes the importance of responding to God's invitation to be part of his kingdom.*

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to the chief priests and Pharisees in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup> 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." <sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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:**

Holy and blessed God,  
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son  
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:  
may we honour you,  
not only with our lips  
but in lives dedicated to the service  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN**

**Jonathan Veira concert & the Jigsaw Festival - Fordingbridge:** A huge thank you to two sets of people – to Ann and Melvyn Beynon for arranging the concert with Jonathan and to all those involved in the Jigsaw Festival this weekend. Mark Ward

**JV Concert 7th October - St Mary's, Fordingbridge** - With grateful thanks for the efforts of the ticket sellers, furniture movers, cake providers and catering team, I am pleased to report that we almost filled the church, Jonathan definitely filled the rafters, and the thoroughly enjoyable evening raised £500 for church funds. Melvyn Benyon

### **Happenings at Winchester Cathedral – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

Congratulations go to Alex Sains who is awarded her “Bishop’s Permission to Preach” and to Mary Melbourne who is authorised as a Licenced Lay Minister. (Mark W also begins a new ministry to Licenced Lay Ministers as a “Deputy Warden of Readers”, deputy to Bishop David, Basingstoke, although he can’t be licenced as he will be in Wales!)

**JIGSAW FEST 2023! October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 10am - 4pm at St Mary’s Church Hall, Fordingbridge.** Don’t forget to come along on Saturday and Sunday. 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

**Michaelmas / MU** - our next monthly meeting will be on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in St Mary’s church hall Fordingbridge. We look forward to a presentation by Alex Sains on the subject of self esteem.....all are welcome. Any queries phone Viv on 01725 512267

**The Morning Bible Study Group in FB** plan to meet at 3 Timbermill Court at **10.30am on Thursday 19 October**, when we aim to conclude looking at 'The New Testament’s Vision of Mission' by Dr Ian Paul.

**Autumn Fayre at Sandleheath United Church on 21 October from 10 -12.** There will be books, puzzles, second-hand clothes, bric a brac, cakes and a raffle. Come and browse and join us for a cuppa.

**Parish Rectory Garden – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 9am-1pm.** We need to have a large 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

**Fordingbridge Choral Society** is holding a fundraising Quiz Night **on Saturday 21st October in St Mary's Church Hall** starting at **7pm**. Tickets cost £15, include a two-course supper (BYO drinks - glasses provided) from [janecalver@btinternet.com](mailto:janecalver@btinternet.com) or please ring 01425 656189. Make up a team (max 6) or join up with others on the night and support the raffle too. Hope you can come.

**Volunteers Needed!** After the success of the Summer Picnics, Community Matters are running another "Picnic Together" in October half term. We will be providing free craft activities and a warm lunch on **Thursday 26th October from 11am - 1pm** at **St Mary's Church Hall**, Fordingbridge. If you can spare some time on the day we are looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen and with facilitating various craft activities (You don't need to be able to make the crafts yourself!). Please contact Claire Godson on [familybefriender@yahoo.com](mailto:familybefriender@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Get Involved** - Community Matters are also working in partnership with Fordingbridge Events Group, Culture in Common and Fordingbridge Town Council to run a Lantern Parade at the Christmas Lights Switch on, on Friday 1st December. We are looking for groups & organisations to take part in the Parade, so please spread the word. There will be a Leaders Lantern making workshop as well as Family Workshops over the next couple of months for those interested. To register please contact Claire Godson at [familybefriender@yahoo.com](mailto:familybefriender@yahoo.com). If you would also like to volunteer at an upcoming Lantern making workshop or marshalling on the night please get in touch and let us know!

**October Fellowship Walk** : the next Fellowship Walk (our last this year) will be on **Sunday, 29 October, starting at 3.30pm**. Apologies for the late change of date. We will meet at **Breamore church**. Do join us if you can? Julian and Martin

**ALL SOULS' DAY - SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** Each year the Church remembers those we love who have died. We hold four special services to remember and give thanks for those who have died, especially those who have died in the last few years This year the services will be on **Sunday 5th November** at:

***St Mary's Breamore at 10.00am***

***Holy Ascension Hyde at 3.00pm***

***St Boniface Woodgreen at 4.00pm***

***St Mary's Fordingbridge at 6.00pm***

We would like to invite you to attend one of these services. Any members of your family, including children, are very welcome. Each service lasts about an hour. Forms are in the back of each church if you would like someone to be mentioned by name

and there is a container at the door of each church for the slips to be returned alternatively you can e-mail or telephone the church office -please specify which service you would like the name of your loved one to be read out at, and whether you will be attending the service.

**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

## Reflection

During Jesus Christ's ministry here on Earth he had many followers who loved him and his teaching. However there were those who had contempt for him, questioning him and asking under whose authority was he preaching. The four Gospels often mention the hostility directed at Jesus by members of the priesthood. We ask ,who were they, and what part did they play in the running of the Temple and Synagogues?

Firstly there were three groups, the Sadducees were motivated by wealth and power, they were traditionists and only depended on the written laws to make decisions and to discipline their fellow Jews. They accepted only the words from the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) and rejected all ideas of resurrection after death.

The Pharisees were more in step with the spiritism of Judaism and believed that our actions on Earth affected our life after death, they were believers of resurrection after death - very similar to our own Christian faith. The Pharisees spent a lot of time updating laws such as Sabbeth day—observance, tithing and ritual cleanliness. Although Jesus often criticised the Pharisees for their pious actions ,he did have friends among them who became Christians.

Then there were the Scribes, they were students of law whose job it was to pass on their knowledge of the scriptures and the law .They were able to draft legal documents for marriages, loans, inheritance , mortgages etc. They were mainly associated with the running of the Temple with the high priests. Here we have the background against which Jesus worked, constantly being questioned and opposed by these religious officials.

Michael Ireland

**CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN TO VISITORS** between 10.00 am and 12.00  
Contact via Email : [Office@AvonValleyChurches.org.uk](mailto:Office@AvonValleyChurches.org.uk) or call 01425 653163 between 10.00 am and 12.00 or  
leave a message Website : [www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk](http://www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk)

# Trinity 19 15<sup>th</sup> October

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

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Matins (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Community Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer ( <i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i> )
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Evensong</b>