

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



29th October 2023 - Trinity 21 (All Saints' Day)

Dear Friends

Firstly, I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone for their love and prayers over the past few weeks.

I wrote in the October edition of our various Parish Magazines how October is a month of change:- *“Sometimes change happens so gradually that we don't even notice the quiet footsteps until much later. Other times, change sweeps into our lives like a gust of wind, leaving us breathless in the wake.”*

Well, it is the last sentence that pertains to Andy and I over the last 4 weeks. Taking ill on board a cruise ship sailing round the west coast of Ireland; being captured by Hurricane Agnes and unable to get to a hospital on land; being transferred to the Mater Hospital in Belfast for 2 weeks and getting fit to fly and then being in hospital for 2 weeks in Salisbury getting fit to be discharged home to a completely new life which bears no resemblance to my previous one.

I am now at the start of a new life. A new journey with God and needing to trust Him that He will never leave me and that He still have plans for me. However, at the moment there is no indication what those plans are and how my ministry will change.

Isaiah 43:19 offers us a message of hope and reassurance during times of transition and change. God says “I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

These words remind us that God is not bound by limitations of the past but is continually working even in the most challenging circumstances. They emphasise that change, though unsettling, can bring forth remarkable blessings.

Let us all move forward together in the coming months and join me in a time and journey of new beginnings. Let us treasure the lessons of the past drawing wisdom from our experiences while boldly embracing the new possibilities before us together.

Blessings to all.

Kate

Kate Wilson

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:
29th October 2023
Trinity 21 (All Saints' Day)

COLLECT:

God of holiness,
your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example
with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 34:1-10

1. I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall ever be in my mouth.
2. My soul shall glory in the Lord;
Let the humble hear and be glad.
3. O magnify the Lord with me;
Let us exalt his name together.
4. I sought the Lord and he answered me
And delivered me from all my fears.
5. Look upon him and be radiant
And your faces shall not be ashamed.
6. This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
And saved me from all my troubles.
7. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him
And delivers them.
8. O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
Blessed is the one who trusts in him.

9. Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,
For those who fear him lack nothing.

10. Lions may lack and suffer hunger,
But those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

1 John 3:1-3

A call to become what God intends us to be.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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.)

Matthew 5:1-12

The challenge involved in following God's will.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter

all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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:

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

St Mary's Jigsaw Fest: Thank you to everyone who supported the event on 14th and 15th October in so many ways. It was a great social occasion as well as raising over £1400 for church funds! Particular thanks to those who helped over the week-end and to the team who helped prepare, set up and cleared away. Thank you all again. Judith, Viv and Jean. PS. The remaining puzzles are being saved for St Matthew's Otterbourne, who plan to hold their first Jigsaw festival next spring, so they will have some puzzles and boards to get them going this winter. We wish them well!

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. 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!

Bible Reading Notes for 2024: there will be an opportunity after the morning service at **Breamore on Sunday 29th October** to have a look at Bible reading notes produced by Scripture Union, Bible Reading Fellowship and others. Please do come and browse, or telephone us if you are interested but unable to be there. Sheilah Collis (01425 470343) and Gillian Benfield (01725 518429).

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

Hyde Fair Trade - Please join us for our Autumn Event on **Saturday 4th November** at **Hyde Church Community Centre from 11.00am to 2.00pm**. There will be Christmas Cards, Crafts and Groceries for sale. We will be serving soup for lunch and the usual teas and coffees. Please help us to support some of the poorest people in the world. All welcome.

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.

Road closure – Church Street 6 -9 November - The road in Church Street will be blocked and closed between the above dates from 9.30am until 4pm each day because the church requires a new electricity cable which has to come across from under the pavement outside the Church Hall. This will also affect the path that runs next to the church and the inside corner of the church where the electricity meters and switches are. Inside church will be particularly affected on Wednesday 8th. The nearest two alternative routes are along Ashford Road (narrow) or to use the roads to Aderholt and Sandleheath joined by Sandleheath Rd/Alderholt Rd passing Alderholt Mill.

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 7th November, 21st November, 5th December and 19th December** from 10.00am – 12.00pm at the Ship Inn, Fordingbridge High Street. There will also be a **Christmas lunch on December 12th at 12.00noon**. This group is for anyone

who is bereaved or lonely and would like a cuppa and a friendly chat. We also organize outings, theatre trips and garden visits. If anyone would like to join us do come. If you need transport, please call Kate Wilson on 01425 540669

Michaelmas Group Shoebox Appeal, St. Mary's, Fordingbridge - We are meeting on Tuesday **21st November at 7.30 p.m.** in the Church Hall to assemble shoe boxes. We would welcome any empty shoe boxes, decorated if possible, (not boot boxes!), also any items listed below. We are told that items for older boys & men are much needed. Suggested donation towards shipping is £4 per completed box. We will have two boxes at the back of the church after Remembrance Sunday if you would like to donate. Completed shoe boxes also welcome by the 21st November. Please get in touch with me on 01425 655462 or thetagues@fordingbridge.com.

The **shoe box appeal** has begun. The family of Hale and Woodgreen churches are pleased to support St Paul's church, Salisbury again but under a different name of 'House of Opportunity.' Items can be left at the church office or dropped off at St Boniface church. The deadline is **Friday, 24th November** but we would like to receive items in plenty of time for delivery to them. Please see below for categories and gift ideas. Thank you for your support.

Items Soap / shampoo Toothpaste / toothbrush / Face cloth / sponge / Deodorant / Comb / brush / Razors / shaving gel

Pens / pencils Notepad / colouring book / Eraser / sharpener / ruler

Sweets / chocolate Make-up Sewing kit/ Candles / Household tools /

Cleaning / baby wipes / Jewellery / hair accessories

Gloves / hat / scarf / Underwear / socks / Baby-grows

Cars / vehicles Dolls / teddies

Category : Woman Girl 11 - 15 Girl 7 - 10 Girl 4 - 6 Girl 2 - 3 girl 0-3 Man Boy 11 - 15 Boy 7 - 10 Boy 4 - 6 Boy 2 - 3 boy 0 - 1

Fordingbridge Choral Society is performing a concert of magnificent music in **St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge** on **Saturday 25th November 2023 at**

7.30pm, This exciting programme includes Brahms' **Song of Destiny**

(Schicksalslied) followed by Mendelssohn's **Hymn of Praise** (Lobgesang)

accompanied by the Edwards Ensemble and talented soloists. Please come - we love a huge audience! Advance tickets include interval drink £15 from Fordingbridge

Bookshop and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral

Open Doors Leaflets and Magazines for November/December have arrived! Please pick them up from any of the churches in our Parish. With positive stories, they keep us informed of the situation in the wider world, and help us know how to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters further afield.

Rectory Garden - A huge thank you to the group of people, all from Fordingbridge, who responded to the request to help to tidy the garden at the Parish Rectory either on a very damp Saturday and over several days before. We also managed to clear the area to the side of the Church Hall and tidy up the small garden at the front of it. I am

immensely grateful. I am hopeful that the parish will not have to look after it in 2024!

St Mary's Fordingbridge - At last the scaffolding is down! And you can see again Charlie Mackesey's wonderful book 'The Boy the mole, the fox and the Horse' in the West niche (outside the West door). The North niche now displays Timothy R Bot's stunning calligraphy of Proverbs, with a prayer he has written beside it. The pages are turned every now and then, so come back to see another one!

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

The situation in Israel and Gaza dominates our news and is very depressing. Before the troubles erupted our last curate, Tom Burden, had decided his new direction would be to lead the Anglican International School in Jerusalem. So it was very moving, to hear a message, read out at the Morning service in Hyde, from Tom who has only recently returned to Jerusalem. He returned to that city at a time when many Westerners are fleeing. Of course it is very challenging for him but he retains his sense of humour. We learned he was missing the delicious cakes that Heather bakes for our coffee time after services!

Looking on the internet I found the school website and was struck by the following extract from Tom's statement about the school:-

"We believe that each child is precious in the sight of God, therefore we are committed to the advancement of education to children from all faiths and none, and every background to promote a culture of respectful coexistence. We have students from many ethnic backgrounds and cultures representing the world in every way....."

...Please take the time to explore more of the information we provide and discover more about our extraordinary School which brings together Arab and Jew, Christian and Muslim; a School where students discover what they have in common and begin their journey to a better future".

Please continue to pray for Tom as he leads his school through these turbulent times.

Stephen Darke

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 21

29th October

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
29^h Oct	10.00 am	Breamore	Sung Parish Matins
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	12.00noon	Fordingbridge	Baptism
	2.30 pm	Hale	Baptism
	3.00 pm	Breamore	Baptism
	3.30 pm	Breamore	Fellowship Walk
	Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online
Wed 1 st	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Heather Cottage	Bible Study
Sat 4 th	11.00am	Hyde (Community Centre)	Hyde Fair Trade
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
5th Nov	10.00 am	Breamore	All Souls' Service
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	3.00 pm	Hyde	All Souls' Service
	4.00 pm	Woodgreen	All Souls' Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	All Souls' Service