

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter

### 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - Remembrance Sunday

#### The Lord gives ...

... and the Lord takes away. Last week was a strange Sunday. On the one hand we were celebrating the appointment of Rev Luke to be our new Rector in the New Year, after months of prayer, discussion, planning, writing of profiles and adverts. We now look forward to him and Sarah moving to be with us.

On the other hand, we were devastated with the news from Andy that Kate died on the Saturday evening. The Sunday congregations found it hard to comprehend. A few weeks ago we were used to her vibrant voice and laughter; she came to spend time with me discussing various issues, leading to a time of prayer together. She was looking forward to the cruise while at the same time finding stairs hard going. Then came news of the long road home, from the ship, Belfast Hospital, and so to Salisbury Hospital – a place she knew and loved and where she had ministered to others in need.

Only once did we see her falter, while taking a service at Hyde – but then quickly back to normal. But we shall never be back to normal, she will be missed so much, not only by the family, but also in the community, at the surgery, by countless individuals who knew her loving and deep counselling, in so many unknown and private ways, as well as in the church congregations. Her sermons and reflections were memorable, rooted in her deep faith, prayer and the scriptures. She gave so much to the team of ministers, and had a loving and thoughtful ministry at the occasional offices – baptisms, weddings and funerals. We shall not forget her warm hospitality and delicious catering.

So the Lord gave ... and took away. Beyond our own understanding, but according to His sovereign will, beyond the suffering, the treatment, and the loving care of family, staff and friends. With all her commitment to nursing others and ministering to them, it was her time, God's time ... and our time for deep sorrow and loss. And a time for care and support for Andy and the family, where the gap in their lives will remain ... until we meet again.

So this Sunday will be a day of memories ... and Remembrance ... we will remember them.

*Canon Michael Anderson*

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: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Remembrance Sunday

### COLLECT:

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease  
and poverty and pain shall end,  
that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

### WISDOM OF SOLOMON 6:17-20

17. The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,  
And concern for instruction is love of her;
18. And love of her is the keeping of her laws,  
And giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
19. And immortality brings one near to God;
20. So the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

### **A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

*Christians in Thessalonica were worried that people who had already died might miss out on the possibility of resurrection at Jesus' second coming.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*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. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup> 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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 of peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
**AMEN**

**A Requiem Communion** for Rev Kate Wilson will be held in St Mary's Church Fordingbridge at **1.30pm on Thursday 23rd November**.

**Avon Valley Community Matters - Families Together** - Well done and a great big thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended our October Half Term Family Picnic. We successfully provided 16 families with a (very tasty) Jacket Potato and Apple Crumble. Activities ranged from cooking to pumpkin carving and all family members got stuck in for an absolutely lovely time. So with some great reviews we are now looking forward to the next Family Dinner and Nativity at Christmas. If you would like to be involved then please contact [familybefriender@yahoo.com](mailto:familybefriender@yahoo.com) we always welcome an extra pair of hands to make teas and coffees, help with craft activities or run a game, and of course we need people to sweep and wash up too!

**Upcoming dates: Saturday 11th November** - Family Lantern Making Workshop, 2pm-4pm at St Mary's Church Hall **Saturday 25th November** - Family Lantern Making Workshop, 2pm-4pm at St Mary's Church Hall **Friday 1st December** - Christmas Lantern Parade (please email [familybefriender@yahoo.com](mailto:familybefriender@yahoo.com) for more information) **Wednesday 20th December** - Family Christmas Dinner and Nativity, 11am-2pm at St Mary's Church Hall You can find information about our events by going to <https://AvonValleyCommunityMatters.eventbrite.com> or emailing [familybefriender@yahoo.com](mailto:familybefriender@yahoo.com)

The history of Blandford Camp - 4500BC to today': Bob Brannigan, Lt Col (Rtd) will tell the story of the Royal Corps of Signals next **Monday 13 November from 2.30pm in the Church Hall** as part of Fordingbridge History Society's 2023/4 talks programme. Do come and join us to hear about the Camp's long and varied history - from 'flags to fibre, semaphore to cyber'. Visitors and guests are sure of a friendly welcome. Further info from Helen Coote on 01425 654995

Hyde next **Mothers' Union** meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th 2.30 in Hyde Church Centre**. Our speaker is Canon Michael Anderson speaking on "By Royal Appointment" (clue it will be on King Charles' birthday) Tea will be served after the meeting. All are invited

On **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, St Boniface Church** will be open for soup and a roll from **12.30 to 2.30pm**. So why not pop in after you've visited the Art Exhibition in Woodgreen Village Hall which takes place that morning... Inside the church we will have locally made crafts on display, Fair Trade items, gifts for Christmas and a warm welcome!

On **Saturday 18th November** the Friends of Fordingbridge Museum hold their autumn **Soup and Pud Lunch** in St Mary's Hall from **12 noon till 2pm**. Tickets are £8 and available from The Fordingbridge Bookshop or on the door.

**Lay Vocations Morning - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am – 12.15pm**  
**St Boniface, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2FT**

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join us at St Boniface Church Chandler`s Ford for a morning to explore the options. Bishop David will be sharing about how God calls us and why we respond to that call. The Winchester School of Mission team will be helping you to discern whether you may be called to mission and ministry. Find out more about the Bishop`s Commission for Mission in pastoral care, worship, children youth and families ministry, and Beyond Church Walls. Is someone called to preach regularly in your church? Do you know someone who might be called to become a Spiritual Director or a Licensed Lay Minister. And what does a Licensed Lay Worker do? Please join us for this day to help you prayerfully consider your response to God`s call on your life. It doesn`t commit you to anything but will help you understand the different paths available.

Please contact Wendy Atkinson at [wendy.atkinson@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:wendy.atkinson@winchester.anglican.org) to book your place.

**St Mary`s Fordingbridge Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 10am** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday would usually be Morning Service but as 12<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance it will be a Celtic based Eucharist with a theme of our support for the church which will include a short presentation. Please be there if you can as we share some information with you.

**Michaelmas Group Shoebox Appeal, St. Mary`s, Fordingbridge** - We are meeting on Tuesday **21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> November. Please get in touch with me on [thetagues@fordingbridge.com](mailto:thetagues@fordingbridge.com) or 01425 655462

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, 24<sup>th</sup> 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

**Childrens Society Boxes:** It is time to empty and count the boxes again, I know it comes around quicker every year ! I really need all of the boxes by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, so please can you drop your box into the Church Office or call me to arrange a pick up / drop off – as soon as possible please. If, like me, there isn't much change in your box, but you would still like to make a donation please can you drop me a cash donation or a cheque made out to The Childrens Society and I am happy to bank that for you. I look forward to hearing from you. Sarah Farr 01425 655319 or sarahannfarr@hotmail.com

**Fordingbridge Choral Society** is performing a concert of magnificent music in **St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge** on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral)

On **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December Hyde Church** are holding a CHRISTMAS FAIR in the Village Hall from 11am - 2pm. Come and browse the stalls, enjoy soup and rolls, buy Christmas presents and cards - all to raise funds for the Church and local businesses.

A hearty thank you to the **Fordingbridge Fire Crew** for coming to my aid and lowering the flag pole (no mean achievement - it's very heavy) so that I was able to replace the broken flag rope. Hopefully the Union Flag will now be in place for Armistice Day and Remembrance Day. Roger King

**Vergers Needed - St.Mary's, Fordingbridge.** Over the last year a number of our congregation have unfortunately moved on, leaving us with noticeably too few vergers, especially for our morning services at St Mary's. This is not a particularly onerous role, but is extremely helpful to the smooth running of the church services. There are clear guidelines as to what is required at any given service, and the existing vergers will always ease new candidates in until they are perfectly happy with their responsibilities. Please consider whether you might like to help us in this area, and speak to the Churchwardens, Martin, Melvyn, Helen, Sarah or any of the other vergers or clergy for more information.

**2024 – Open Gardens** - We are considering having an open gardens event as a fund-raiser, which we last did about 10 years ago. The possible dates would be the late May bank holiday weekend (25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>) and people can choose how many days/part days they open their garden across the weekend. So, would you be prepared to open your garden or do you have a neighbour who might? You don't have to be Monty Don and it can be a courtyard to several acres. Before we do any more planning we need to know if we have a viable number of gardens. You could boost income by offering refreshments or selling plants but there is no compulsion to do so and we could team you up with a baker if that's not your thing! If you are interested please can you let me know by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December either by calling or texting me on 07833 477384 or dropping me an email to [mark@fordingbridge.com](mailto:mark@fordingbridge.com).

**Partners** - volunteers needed for the delivery of **Partners to Fordingbridge**. Pat Bloomfield who usually kindly delivers Partners is unable to do so until the end of December. Is there anyone who can pick them up from the office and deliver them to St Mary's on either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning? Please e-mail the office if you think you could help. Many thanks Zoe

## Reflection

This last week has I'm sure been an emotional one for our whole Parish. We will miss and give thanks for Rev Kate (and hold Andy and their family in our prayers) and at the same time we start to look forward to the arrival of a new Rector in our Parish, hopefully in February next year. Our Diocese is also preparing to say a different sort of farewell to Bishop Debbie at the end of this month and in January to formally welcome Bishop Phillip to Winchester.

As we see these changes, I have spent some of the last week looking into the lives of two of our previous Vicars of Hyde. I suspect you will find something similar if you look at the history of Breamore, Fordingbridge or Hale and Woodgreen! I have seen stories of people called to serve in; Jerusalem, (the then) Rhodesia and Madagascar; the Balkans during the Great War and the slums of Vancouver (and then Vancouver Cathedral). If I went further, I might see more of the world as this reflects just six years of the Parish of Hyde..

As we see people move to different places (or stay where we are) to serve our God and His church or go home at the end of their service here on this earth, I suggest that this is a common theme – a willingness to put God's call at the forefront of their mind and in all we do trying to follow Him in holiness, love and justice, wherever we are called to be.

A life of one of our past Vicars at Hyde includes two quotes, which I think reflect where the last week or so have led me :

Like a mighty army moves the church of God  
Brothers we are treading where the saints have trod.  
(from Onward Christian Soldiers by Sabine Baring-Gould)

If a person saves on life, it is as if he had saved the whole world.  
(from the Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin)

As we live our lives as Christians we do so as part of a community (past and present) and every person we meet is important both physically and spiritually.

Julian Sims

**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)

# Remembrance Sunday

## 12<sup>th</sup> November

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

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>
	<b>10.50 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Remembrance Day (following procession)</b>
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer ( <i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i> )
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Heather Cottage	Bible Study
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandeheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Evensong</b>