

19th November 2023 - 2nd Sunday before Advent

The Rev Kate Wilson R.I.P.

Requiem Thursday 23rd November 1.30pm

The holly berries in the forest and in our gardens this year have been wonderful. We are no doubt familiar with folklore which says that they are signs of a harsh winter to come. More likely however they are a consequence of what has gone before. Whatever the truth they can lead us to reflect on how the past relates to the present and how the present colours thoughts about the future.

Past, present and future will all be dimensions within the requiem service being held for Kate on Thursday in St Mary's. A requiem is perhaps best thought of as a 'eucharist of resurrection'. Eucharist means thanksgiving and we shall celebrate Kate's life in a context which holds together past, present and future. 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.'

We break bread in remembrance of Christ himself. The dying thief said to Jesus, 'Remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus replied, 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' In Christ nothing is lost. Paradise means garden - a place of resurrection. We shall celebrate and remember Kate's life in the presence of the risen Christ and 'the whole company of heaven' with hope for the future and the assurance that Kate rests in peace and will rise in glory.

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

Canon Nigel Coates

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: 19th November 2023

2nd Sunday before Advent

COLLECT:

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 90:1-8

1. Lord, you have been our refuge
From one generation to another.
2. Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
From everlasting to everlasting you are God.
3. You turn us back to dust and say:
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
4. For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,
Which passes like a watch in the night.
5. You sweep them away like a dream;
They fade away suddenly like the grass.
6. In the morning it is green and flourishes;
In the evening it is dried up and withered.
7. For we consume away in your displeasure;
We are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
8. You have set our misdeeds before you
And our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Christians in Thessalonica are encouraged to be alert for Christ's coming.

¹Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30

The second of Jesus' parables about judgment, this one encouraging people to use the gifts they have been given.

Jesus said to his disciples, ¹⁴'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who

had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

AMEN

Avon Valley Community Matters - Families Together Upcoming dates:
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 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

On **Saturday 18th 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!

St Mary's Fordingbridge Sunday 19th 10am - The 3rd Sunday would usually be Morning Service but as 12th 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 **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 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, 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

Please note that the **church office** will be **shut** on **Friday November 24th**

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 24th**

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

Christmas Bazaar - Hulse Hall, Breamore on **Saturday November 25th 10.30 - 4pm**. A warm welcome awaits you at this happy community event! Lots of interesting stalls together with mulled wine, mince pies, bacon rolls and more - what could be better?! Any queries contact Viv or Andy Finch 01725 512267

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

On **Saturday 2nd 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..

Shortest Day Christmas Service at St Giles, Godshill - The Shortest Day Christmas Service is one with a difference! Like last year, it will be a more reflective half-hour service open to everyone, including those people who might recoil from a full-blown Carol Service, but may find welcome solace and sanctuary in a troubled world through this time together. There will be readings and carols and prayers, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. **The Date: Thursday 21st December, 11 am at St Giles, Godshill.** All are Welcome!

Dear all, - I have a number of '**Real Advent Calendars**' with Fairtrade Chocolate and a booklet of the Christmas Story. They are £4.50 each and I can deliver. Perfect gift for your godchild, grandchild or even yourself! Please contact me on either my mobile 07855210769 or Ruth.crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk. Thanks Ruth Crosland

Used Postage Stamps - A big THANK YOU to all of you who continue to save your used British and foreign postage stamps and we thank all those in Ringwood, Poulner, Ellingham and Hyde for faithfully saving them throughout the year. Please continue, and especially at Christmas time, when many more stamps appear; each one helps, so please continue to tear or cut off the envelopes with about ¼ in. or 5cm. surround and put in the marked box at the back of church. These are all sent to the Bible Society and are much appreciated. Thank you. Sylvia Anderson. (471490)

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 (25th-27th) 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 10th December either by calling or texting me on 07833 477384 or dropping me an email to mark@fordingbridge.com.

CAN YOU HELP? There is a cupboard in the cloakroom at St Mary's Church Hall which has had a new lock fitted. We do not know who asked to have a new lock, what the contents are, whether it is still being used and we do not have a spare key at the Church Office. **Please contact the Church Office before 4th December** on 01425 653163 or office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk if you or someone you know is using this cupboard or further action will be taken to gain access. The very successful AVCM projects need additional space to support their community catering activities.

Reflection

In The Parable of the Talents, a rich man gives his servants money to manage during the man's absence. Each servant is given a different amount, **according to their ability**.

Those who had been given five and two doubled their amount. The rich man was pleased with their faithfulness and promised to entrust them with more. The man who was given one, hid his out of fear. The rich man reprimanded him and gave his portion to the one who had gained the most.

The things we have in life are blessings from God and he has entrusted us with them. He hasn't given us all the same things. We each have differences in financial status, health, intellect, skills and talents, etc. No matter how much or how little, they are all gifts from God.

For me, dear Rev. Kate was the perfect example of someone who was given blessings and gifts from God, but who then used them, and doubled them a hundred-fold, in His service and for His Glory. God continued to bless Kate until He gathered her to Him.

He expects us to use our gifts wisely. What will we do with the blessings we've been given? God gives us free will to choose. That can be so daunting, but now I have Kate's memory and inspiration before me and the knowledge that we are never entrusted with more than God knows we can handle.

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:21 NIV

Jan Butcher

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

2nd Sunday before Advent 19th November

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
19th Nov	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Celtic based Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hale	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hyde	Morning Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	11.30 am	Breamore	Baptism
	12.00 noon	Hyde	Baptism
	12.30 pm	Breamore	Baptism
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wed 22 nd	10.00 am	Frogham Chapel	Informal Communion
Thurs 23 rd	1.30 pm	Fordingbridge	Requiem Communion for the late Rev Kate Wilson
Sunday	8.15 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
26th Nov	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service