

14th January 2024 - Epiphany 2

A Different Route?

In this Epiphany season it is interesting to reflect on the journey of the magi. After encountering the Christ-child they return home by a different route. Their experience changed them forever.

When Sir Nicholas Winton went to Prague in the late 1930's he witnessed the appalling circumstances of children who had fled Nazi Germany. His experience changed him forever. Before the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939 his humanitarian efforts ensured the transportation of 669 children to foster homes in the UK. There are now some 6000 descendants who owe their lives to his efforts. Sir Nicholas Winton was a stockbroker who used his gifts and persuasive powers to arrange for the Foreign Office to grant visas and deal quickly with the necessary paperwork. His remarkable story is moving portrayed in the film 'One Life' where his character played by Antony Hopkins and Johnny Flynn.

To see the film is to be reminded of the generosity of spirit shown by our country in former times and it is impossible to watch without considering our present reluctance to offer shelter to those most in need. Perhaps this season of Epiphany we might reflect on 'a different route' for dealing with genuine refugees and those made homeless by war. To journey with the magi is to be open to the God who can change our values.

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: 14th January 2024

Epiphany 2

COLLECT:

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-18

1. O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
2. You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
3. For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4. You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
5. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
12. For you yourself created my inmost parts
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
13. I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
14. My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15. Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members written,
16. As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them.
17. How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
18. If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

Revelation 5:1-10

Part of John's vision of heaven, as the Lamb of God proclaims God's power and glory.

I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals;² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?'³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.⁹ They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

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 *John*

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

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 glory,

you nourish us with your Word

who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit

that through us the light of your glory

may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Care Home Visits – This year we are resuming our monthly visits to Fordingbridge Care Home and Allenbrook, (both on Station Road in Fordingbridge), on the third Monday of each month, to provide a short service for the residents and staff. Our first visit for the year will be on **Monday 15th January – 11am** at Fordingbridge Care Home and 2.30pm at Allenbrook, when we will be celebrating Epiphany, with a short service lasting less than 30 mins. If you would like to join us to help with the singing of three hymns, please meet in the reception at Fordingbridge Care Home at 10.55am and/or at Allenbrook at 2.25pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff at both places. Mary Melbourne LLM

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 16th January** from 10.00am – 12.00pm at the Ship Inn, Fordingbridge High Street. 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.

Pastoral Care Visitors Meeting – The next meeting will take place on **Friday 19th January** at Sandleheath Village Hall. We will begin at **2.30pm** with a short talk by Julie Francis regarding her work as a Lay Chaplain at Salisbury District Hospital. This will be followed by the meeting at 3.15pm. If you are a Pastoral Visitor, but have not received information about this meeting, you are very warmly invited to join us. If you have any queries, please contact me – mary.awdford@btopenworld.com or call 07710288361. Mary Melbourne LLM

Hale Epiphany Concert: The Morning Star to the Star of Bethlehem

You are all invited to enjoy music From Advent to Epiphany on **Sunday, 21st January at 4pm**. Canon Gary Philbrick is returning with his choir, together with Hales Angel's to entertain us post - Christmas. Tickets are £12 each, available from the church office, Woodgreen community shop and Christine Wilson or can be preordered by calling Lynda Warne on 07799542707. Available to buy on the door. Money raised to support Hale roof fund and the Trussel Trust foodbank.

Congratulations to Mary Melbourne who has successfully completed the Anna chaplaincy course which offers training in ministry to elderly people. Mary will be commissioned and licensed to serve in the AVC parish by our Area Dean, Canon Gary Philbrick, at **Candlemas Friday 2nd Feb 11am at St Mary's Breamore**. All are welcome.

Big Model Train Event 2024! The Friends of Fordingbridge Parish Church announce the arrival of Neil's Big Trains at St Mary's Church Hall at **10am on Saturday 17th February, departing at 4pm, returning at 10am on Sunday 18th February and leaving at 4pm** - this weekend is at the end of our local half term. Admission £5 adults, £1 children 5-16, Family ticket £8. Refreshments available, for which offers of help with baking and serving are welcome so please sign up on the lists at St Mary's, FB. Don't miss these amazing trains!

Open Doors Magazines and Prayer Leaflets for Jan/Feb are Here! For over 65 years, Open Doors has stood alongside the Persecuted Church, strengthening and supporting Christians who follow Jesus, no matter the cost. Here is your chance to see what they get up to. Please pick up your copy today.

Open Gardens 2024 – Fordingbridge/Godshill/Sandleheath

We now have a small list of gardens that will be open over the late May Bank Holiday to help us raise funds, but we need a few more. Your garden doesn't have to be either large or spectacular, we aren't trying to do Chelsea! It would be great if you could also host your guests with refreshments (or perhaps have a few plants to sell) but if you don't bake we can find you are partner. Or do you have a non-churchgoing friend with a garden they would be prepared to open? Please let me know if you are willing to help. Mark Ward: mark@fordingbridge.com or 01425 656120

Fundraising for St Mary's Hale roof repairs. We have been donated some beautifully knitted childrens cardigans. Many with knitted in rabbits etc on the front. Pastel colours, age 2 - 4 approx. To buy, (they are £5 and at the back of St Boniface) please put your money in an envelope marked Cardigan and post it in the wall safe on the left of the toilet door.

Welcome Hamper - We are putting a non-perishable food and drink hamper together for the arrival of our new vicar, Luke and his wife. If you would like to contribute please place something in the receptacle in your church during January. It could be a store cupboard item or a little bit of luxury! Thanks Mark Ward

News about Rev Tom Burden - Tom Burden, our former Curate, is returning to England in March to take up a parish role as Vicar of Ventnor and Bonchurch on the Isle of Wight. Tom grew up in Ventnor and his responsibilities will include the church in which he was converted as a sixth former nearly 35 years ago. Tom left us to lead the Anglican School in Jerusalem during the absence of his predecessor, recent Ringwood Curate Sandra Matthews, who is able to return earlier than expected, thus giving Tom the opportunity to accept what he sees as the best job in the Church of England. The formal announcement from the Diocese of Portsmouth is at Diocese of Portsmouth - News - Ventnor man to return as vicar (anglican.org) and you will see that he will be licensed by Bishop Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth (formerly Bishop of Southampton) in St. Catherine's Church Ventnor IOW on March 13th 2024.

St Mary's Fordingbridge – Parking: Please do not park your car in front of the Lych Gate. Parking is available behind the church hall and to the south-east side of the church. Thank you.

Christmas Wreaths/ Table Decorations. A very big thank you for all your support from the Wreath Team as we are very pleased to have raised £528 for Church funds.

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.

Foodbank Donations. Food banks are struggling to keep up with demand at the moment. If you are able to afford one extra item when you go shopping could you help to provide: tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, mashed potato, tinned meat pies, long life milk, long life fruit juice, squash, tinned veg (all sorts), coffee, pasta and curry sauces, jam, shampoo and deodorant. You can drop off at Fordingbridge Co-op, at Woodgreen Church and at Fordingbridge Church. Please continue to help if you can.

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 18 months ago, the Churchwardens of the AVC Parish began their meetings. With the departure of Gary, our Rector we formed a group of 8, some of whom knew each other quite well, some less so...

Working through the Diocesan process we began to understand what was required of us in the preparation of a Parish Profile, seeking to identify someone who would take the new Parish forward, as we joined God's mission in our local areas and beyond.

At times, it was not easy to discern a united way forward but we all agreed that although we are members of one parish, we should and must celebrate our diversity to further the work of sharing God's love in the world.

It was tough, when the recruitment process didn't go well but like a phoenix from the ashes, we rose from the ashes, to move forward again.

At our meeting last week, our talk was all of our new Rector, Rev'd. Luke Wickings, and his wife Sarah, who will start with the Parish at the end of February.

Now we are planning for our future for all that Luke will lead us to accomplish. Maybe you've noticed a slight lightness in the step of your Churchwarden, as this part of their role comes to an end?

Ruth Crosland, Churchwarden Hale & Woodgreen.

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

Epiphany 2

14th January 2024

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (BCP)
14th Jan	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts Service
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hyde	All-age Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Monday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wednesday			
Friday			
Tues 16 th	2.00 pm	Hyde	The funeral of the late Joan Mills
Wed 17 th	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
Fri 19 th	12.00noon	Hyde	The funeral of the late Mary Ings
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
21st Jan	10.30 am	Burgate School	Unity Service
	4.00 pm	Hale	Epiphany Concert