

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



21st January 2024 - Epiphany 3

This Sunday, we are acknowledging 'The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, and it should never be the last resort of God's people; it should always be our first point of action.

One of the first actions of Jesus was to instruct people how to pray by teaching His followers the 'Lord's Prayer'. This prayer is included at almost every act of worship throughout the world. Last week, a small group from Fordingbridge Church visited the Fordingbridge Care Home and Allenbrook, for a short Epiphany Service, which included the 'Lord's Prayer'. At both Care Homes, we had a number of residents join us, some of whom were very responsive but others not. However, when we began the 'Lord's Prayer' almost every resident joined in, many silently, just mouthing the words. We may not have been able to hear them but God would have done.

God's help through the power of prayer is always available to us. We can pray while walking, driving, working or at any time and in any place. Prayer is not a ritual that depends on us closing our eyes and kneeling, and does not have to be complicated. God delights in any simple words we offer Him, and in return gives us so many blessings each day, some so small that we may well overlook them.

The ancient rhythm of prayer found in many religious orders and their traditions teach us that when we pray, we pray not just on our own or with those who share the same physical space, but with the whole Church, the Body of Christ, of Christians in other places and in different times.

May the love of the Christ Child bless us as we bring our prayers and with it the service of our lives throughout this coming week.

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

Mary Melbourne (LLM)

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: 21st January 2024

Epiphany 3

COLLECT:

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 128

1. Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.
2. You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be.
3. Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children round your table, like fresh olive branches.
4. Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord.
5. The Lord from out of Zion bless you,
that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.
6. May you see your children's children,
and may there be peace upon Israel.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

Revelation 19:6-10

A vision of worship in heaven.

⁶I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; ⁸to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' - for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

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 2:1-11

The first of the seven signs of Jesus' glory recorded by John.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They

have no wine.’ ⁴And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ ⁵His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ ⁶Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ¹⁰‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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:

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

AMEN.

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. They will also be available to buy on the door. Money raised to support Hale roof fund and the Trussell Trust foodbank. Please note that the 'wiggly' road to Hale Park is closed. It is suggested they you follow the diversion sign and travel to Woodgreen common/Hale Purlieu, then Hatchet green to Hale park drive.

The PARISH MISSION MATTERS GROUP (PMMG) are meeting on Monday 22 January at 7pm at Twin Oaks, Godshill. This gathering is open to all with a passion for Mission of any kind. Do get in touch if you would like to see what we do. Further details from Pat B (07985 938644)

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!

The arrival of Rev Luke Wickings

Luke will be "instituted and inducted" on **28th February at 7.30pm** at St Mary's Fordingbridge but will move into the Rectory sooner. The diocese is undertaking maintenance but they do not provide a cleaner before the new priest arrives so we will have an internal cleaning "party" on Saturday 3rd February from 9am until lunchtime. It would be great to see people from right across the parish. Please bring buckets, cloths, polish, small brush and dustpans etc. A Hoover will be provided. Refreshments of morning coffee etc will be served in return for hard graft!!
Queries and questions: Mark Ward (mark@fordingbridge.com or 07833 477834)

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 by 28th 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.

With the weather having turned cold, please do make use of the **warm spaces** in our community - somewhere to go to keep warm, access information and advice or spend time with others. **Free and all welcome.**

Tuesdays

- [Fordingbridge Library](#) - Opening Hours 9.30am - 5pm
- [The Branch](#), High Street - Board Games afternoon – 1.30pm - 3pm (Term Time)

Wednesdays

- [Fordingbridge Library](#) - Opening Hours 9.30am - 5pm
- [Avon Valley Shed](#), Fordingbridge Town Hall – 9.30am – 12 noon for a cuppa and a chat

- [The Branch](#), High Street – Community Coffee morning 10am - 12 noon (Term Time)

Thursdays

- Fordingbridge United Reformed Church - Tea Stop 2pm - 4pm

Fridays

- [Fordingbridge Library](#) - Opening Hours 9.30am - 5pm

- [Avonway Fordingbridge Community Centre](#) – Friends on Fridays - 11.30am - 2pm – Choice of FREE soup with a roll, a piece of cake, fruit and hot drinks. Food from mid-day. FairShare bus 1.30pm. Advice on housing, benefits and keeping warm.

- C.A.M.E.O (Come And Meet Each Other) - Every Friday morning throughout January, February, and March, from 11.30am 'til 2.30pm at Woodgreen Village Hall is C.A.M.E.O (Come And Meet Each Other) organised by [Avon Valley Churches](#).

Saturdays

- [Fordingbridge Library](#) - Opening Hours 9.30am - 1.30pm

Sundays

[Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District](#) have a list of all the Sunday services in this area, and many of the morning services also include children's groups. All welcome.

Please note the office will be **shut** on **Monday 22nd January**

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

Change is inevitable. Part of what living is all about, but it can be overwhelming, when you have no choice and it all happens so fast.

Seeing the snowdrops popping up and all the buds on the Spring flowers, reminds us how welcome some change can be.

One thing that never changes and remains constant and reliable is God's love for us. This prayer from William Barclay reminds us of that.

We give Thee thanks, O God, as we remember the passing years, we thank Thee most of all for Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. Help us to go on, certain that, as Thou has blessed the past, so the future is also forever in Thy hands.

Amen.

Beverly Judd

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 3

21st January 2024

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
21st Jan	10.30 am	Burgate School	Unity Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	4.00 pm	Hale	Epiphany Concert
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wed 24 th	10.00 am	Frogham Chapel	Informal Communion
Thur 25 th	2.30 pm	Hyde	The funeral of the late Betty Rawle
Fri 26 th	10.30 am	Woodgreen	Fairtrade Coffee Morning
Sunday	8.15 am	Breamore	Holy Communion (BCP)
28th Jan	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong