

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



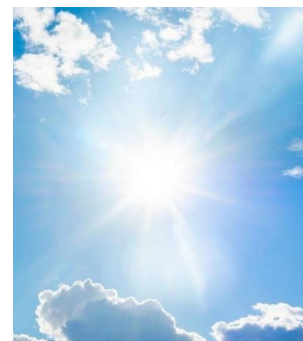
28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 - Presentation of Christ in the Temple



What rain and storms we have had this week, and then a fine day!!!. God makes our weather to be such a change. He also changes our readings from the bible especially about His Son. Jesus goes to the synagogue and he began to teach those who had gathered, and speaks as one in great authority. Then a man calls out to him, and asks him what he

is doing, has he come to destroy the people. Immediately Jesus rebukes the evil one inside this man; the spirit calls out and convulsing him, comes out of the man. All the people are amazed and they speak about all that they have seen and witnessed, and spread the news about the man known as Jesus.

I wonder what would happen if this was to happen this Sunday in St. Mary's or St. Boniface or Holy Ascension. A visiting preacher turns up, and preaches well, and then he is challenged, and casts out an evil one. What would we do or say? Just take a moment, and think. As the week continues, stop and think some more. As God changes the weather, so He changes how we see things. Let us keep praying that we might become like that early church and see the Lord Jesus even more carefully.



Ian Newman

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: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Presentation of Christ in the Temple

### COLLECT:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.  
**AMEN.**

### PSALM 24:7-10

7. Lift up your heads, O gates;  
    be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
    and the King of glory shall come in.
  
8. 'Who is the King of glory?'  
    'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
    the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
  
9. Lift up your heads, O gates;  
    be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
    and the King of glory shall come in.
  
10. 'Who is this King of glory?'  
    'The Lord of hosts,  
    he is the King of glory.'

## A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 2:14-18

*The writer describes the work of Jesus in terms of High-Priestly sacrifice.*

<sup>14</sup> Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*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 Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)**

Luke 2:22-40

*Jesus, six weeks old, taken to the Temple is recognised as the one who will bring salvation to Jews and Gentiles.*

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

*During the Gospel:*

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying...

**Lord now you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled  
My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
a light to reveal you to the nations:  
and the glory of your people Israel....**

*(The Nunc Dimittis)*

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon 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:**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes  
to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**AMEN.**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> January**. It could be a store cupboard item or a little bit of luxury! Thanks Mark Ward

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 11am at St Mary's Breamore**. All are welcome.

### **The arrival of Rev Luke Wickings**

Luke will be "instituted and inducted" on 28<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Avon Valley Men's Fellowship** - Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at The Old Beams pub, Ibsley. We will gather from 6:30pm for a 7pm start. After a one course supper our speaker will be the Revd. Peter Vargeson, an Associate Priest with the Ringwood Benefice. Peter will be talking about the links his last Parish had out in Africa, where they built a church, training college and ran a project for Aids orphans.

If you would like to join our friendly group you would be most welcome. Please contact Stephen Darke ( Email - [darkefamily@btinternet.com](mailto:darkefamily@btinternet.com) or phone 01425 656988).

**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 17<sup>th</sup> February, departing at 4pm, returning at 10am on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Sign up for the service to welcome Rev Luke Wickings – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm, St Mary's Fordingbridge**

It will help us to plan for this service if local people can indicate whether you and your families intend to come to the service (we realise you might have to change plans but having an idea will be very helpful). For this there will be a sign-up sheet in

your church from **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January** and we need to know by **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February**. If you intend to attend but cannot get to a church during that period please email [mark@fordingbridge.com](mailto:mark@fordingbridge.com) with this information: Number in your group as congregation, number in your group as choir, and how many are any of Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegetarian or Vegan, again **by 11<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Epiphany concert:** Thank you to everyone involved in the concert at St Mary's church, Hale last Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January. We were treated to a very special programme with a wide variety of both music and singing. These things require a lot of thought, effort and commitment from everyone are so lucky to have Canon Gary Philbrick lead the Hale ensemble, Amanda Clarke leading the Hales Angels, supported by Barry Groves. This year we were joined by Mike on the oboe and Margaret on the flute. So many talented people. The raffle was well supported but do please check your tickets below:

Orange: 384 Bottle of gin

Green: 248 Hamper,

Green: 282 Weekend bag,

Green: 246 Kath Kidson toiletries

Green: 249 Set of tablemats/coasters.

Please contact Lynda Warne for further details.

**Wo/Man and a van:** Can anyone help us? We have been offered and accepted 25 second hand chairs for Hale and Woodgreen Churches. The issue is that they need to be collected from Parkstone, the church where our very own Mike Trotman is Rector. If you can help, please contact Lynda or Ruth. Thank you

**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

# Reflection

This issue of partners is dated January 28th. On February 28th our new Rector will be inducted, and the difficult vacancy period will be over. I have not yet met Luke and I am very much looking forward to meeting him. When I do, I must avoid bombarding him with my personal agenda of things which I feel our parish needs from him. He will need time to see for himself what we do and draw his own conclusions from what he sees.

Sadly, most of the topics discussed at the various meetings that take place across our parish, and most of the time and energy given by the people attending those meetings on your behalf, is taken up by worrying about money and maintenance of the buildings. Ideally, we should keep these worries and the time taken up by them away from Luke, He can then concentrate on the discipleship needed to spread the word of Christ and the good news it brings in our community; at the same time providing the comfort, guidance, and care that a priest should have time to give to those who need it.

We must demonstrate to Luke that he can trust us to deal with the mundane but vital tasks with his guidance and advice available when we need it. We must also give him and his family a warm welcome and be ready to give him help guidance and advice when he asks for it.

The vacancy has been long and came at a very bad time when the individual parishes were struggling with the inevitable difficulties caused by the process of joining together in a single parish. Those difficulties have now largely been resolved. With Luke's leadership and our hard work, we can go forward with the renewed enthusiasm needed to bring new people into our churches, at the same time catering for the different needs of each of our existing congregations.

Thank God for bringing Luke and Sarah to us.

Nigel Spratt

**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)

# Presentation of Christ in the Temple

## 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer ( <i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i> )
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Fordingbridge	The funeral of the late Peter Trussler
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Fordingbridge	Memorial service for the late Alverna Blake
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Breamore	Anna Chaplaincy Commissioning for Mary Melbourne
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Morning Prayer (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Allsorts</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>6 O'Clock Service</b>