

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



25th February 2024 - Lent 2

Yours ... or mine?

Ours! Owning something, or a possession, is something we have always lived with, and always will – all around us are things we have accumulated or been given – and we are grateful.

But in this time of Lent, it's not only a matter of reviewing what we have or what we need, but what we **share**.

When Jesus was asked by His disciples to teach them how to pray – following His example, as well as His cousin John and his followers – they were amazed when He taught them to address God as “Father”. This was new, different and unexpected! He was *sharing* with them – access to His Father! Rarely is God called Father in the Old Testament – with which they were familiar as their scriptures. Even more, they were to speak to Him, pray to Him, listen to Him as “our Father”.

So in most acts of worship, in most denominations today we are familiar with this act of sharing: “our Father”. He is our heavenly Father, as well as all Christians, in all parts of the world, in all languages! And we are all His children, sisters and brothers of His Son, Jesus! When visiting Lee Abbey (where there can be many members of the community from overseas), or in acts of worship abroad, we are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in our own language.

You will find the prayer in Matthew 6 and Luke 11. Do look it up in your own Bible and note the different translations. In all versions we identify, and have fellowship with, all other Christian believers, when either we live alone, in family, or in our local Church fellowship. The Lord is *our* Father – our Lord and God, friend and guide, comforter and healer – everything and all we would hope for in an earthly father.

Our means He loves us and cares for us, and we share all that with our fellow-Christians!

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: 25th February 2024

Lent 2

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

PSALM 22:23-31

23. Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
24. For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face from them;
But when they cried to him he heard them.
25. From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
26. The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.
27. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
And all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
28. For the kingdom is the Lord's
And he rules over the nations.
29. How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
Or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
30. He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
This shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
31. They shall come and make known his salvation to a people yet unborn,
Declaring that he the Lord has done it.

A Reading from the Book of Romans

Romans 4:13-25

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus tells his disciples that he will suffer, and tells us all that following him will involve sacrifice.

³¹ Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took

him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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 God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Sandleheath United Church are holding weekly prayer meetings **every Monday during Lent**. They will start at **10.15 am until 11.30 am**. This will be a time to explore prayer and quiet reflection. You are welcome to join us. For further information please phone Sue Ledger on 01725 517389.

2024 Lent Course Programme :This Lent our small groups in the Parish are all running series looking at Prayer. There will be five options, and everyone is welcome to join whether or not they are a regular part of a particular small group.

The days, times, locations and start dates are as follows :

- Tuesday evenings (19.30) (**20th**) :“How to hear God” – Seagry Lawn, Frogham, contact Heather Clark (656820) or Jan Butcher (653219)
- Wednesday mornings (10.00) (**21st**) :“Prayers of the Bible” – Heather Cottage, Rockford contact Sheilah Collis (470343)

- Wednesday mornings (10.30) (28th) : “How to hear God” – 15 Provost Street, Fordingbridge, contact Pat Bloomfield (837735)
- Wednesday evenings (19.30) (21st) : “How to hear God” – 19 Bartons Road, Fordingbridge, contact Alex Sains (07816225030) or Julian Sims
- Friday mornings (10.30) (16th) : “Prayers of the Bible” – 20 Forest Lake Avenue, Ringwood, contact Canon Michael Anderson (471490)

As we enter a new phase in our Parish with Rev Luke’s arrival this month, Lent seems an opportunity to learn to listen to God and think about how we pray for the future our Parish, the church communities within it and our wider community. ‘How to hear God’ is based on a book and videos from Pete Greig (many of us have followed his courses in the past) and ‘Prayers of the Bible’ has been prepared by Canon Michael using a number of resources. I am sure both will encourage and challenge us all.

I hope you will be able to join one of the above and it would help the hosts if you could let them know if you will be coming to their group. Julian Sims (07887 637047)

Correction of time - For the attention of the whole parish - getting St Mary’s Fordingbridge ready for Luke’s service – **Monday 26th February 5pm**

We need to re-arrange the church ready for the service which is on Wednesday. We need helpers to move chairs and other furniture etc. If you can help please join us for about 1 hour on Monday 26th at 6pm. Thank you. Mark Ward

Luke’s Institution service – parking: We realise there will be people who need to park either in the disabled area of our churchyard or at the Church Hall, but please can we ask everyone else from our parish who needs to use a car, to, if possible, park in the town car park so we leave as much space as possible for our visitors. Please do not leave any cars parked in the area by the Lych Gate as this will be required for dropping people off. If the weather is favourable we may be able to use the Glebe Field but that is very weather dependent.

Refreshments for the Induction Service on February 28th. Contributions of tray baked cakes are needed. Forms will be available at all our churches for anyone willing to help, to give details of what they can provide so that we can assess how much we can rely upon. Please deliver your contribution to Fordingbridge church on the morning of the service. Janet Newman will be there to receive them. The cakes will be cut up into pieces which can be easily packed into covered trays and brought out at the appropriate time to be served. It is important to provide a list of ingredients used that could cause any problems with allergies. We would also appreciate help on the day to man the service points, please let either Janet or me know or add your name to the cake list and indicate that you will help serve. Thanks for your help, Nigel Spratt

Please note the **church office** will be **shut** on **Friday 1st March**

The **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024** will be on **Friday 1st March**. The service this year has been prepared by a group of Christian women from Palestine and will be held at Fordingbridge United Reform Church starting at 2pm.

Please join us - everyone welcome.

The **window** in the **North Chapel at St Mary's Fordingbridge** will have the large panels removed during **March 11th to March 13th** inclusive for the stained glass to be re-lead. This is necessary because when the window was made in the 1950s a composite material was used instead of lead and this window, along with many others in churches all over Britain are in danger of collapse because the composite material has deteriorated. Our window will be with Salisbury Cathedral Glass for approximately 10 weeks before it is replaced. The window will be made weatherproof during that time. Nigel Spratt

The next meeting of **Hyde Mothers' Union** is on Tuesday **March 12th** at 2.30 pm in Hyde Church Centre. Our speaker will be Helen Pain one of the Mothers' Union Speakers. Her title is the Triennial theme "Transformation Now"

All are welcome. If you would like to know more about the MU please join us.

Big Model Train Event - We were treated to a display of Neil Stauber's substantial railway in the church hall on **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February**. His collection of locomotives and rolling stock is quite extraordinary, trains hooted, were lit up and even emitted smoke. It was good to see young families and older model railway enthusiasts enjoying his trains in action. A successful cafe was created at one end of the hall where drinks and cakes were served. There was a pleasant atmosphere.

Friends of Fordingbridge Parish Church have banked £930 so far with additional funds to come from the card reader. Many thanks are due to Neil Stauber and his mum, folk who manned the door and those who helped with catering.

Warden Vacancy-I have completed five years as churchwarden and I will be stepping down from the post at the APCM in May. It has been challenging and interesting with much more happening than I expected when I took it on, only expecting to do the job for two years to fill in until someone else volunteered. I really wanted to help Ian to ensure that the hugely generous legacy that Roy Lillington left to our church was spent wisely on the building that I and several generations of my family have loved and attended. I hope I have managed to contribute towards achieving that. It has been a privilege but it is time for me to pass on the responsibility, and have time to enjoy my retirement. I will continue to work to help and support Mark until a replacement is found and I am considering whether to offer to continue as PCC Secretary which I have been doing on a temporary basis. Nigel Spratt

Fundraising for St Mary's Fordingbridge – pledge- In the autumn we spoke to those who attend St Mary's Fordingbridge of our real need to raise funds to increase our income. One suggestion was for you to invite a group of friends to a small event

at home which could be a coffee morning, lunch, afternoon tea, etc and ask for a small donation for church funds. To help us to gauge support for this we shall be very grateful if you will complete the pledge form and drop it into the box in church. Of course if you wish to do something else that's absolutely fine but we do need your help! Queries and questions to: Mark Ward - mark@fordingbridge.com or 01425 656120

ITEMS FOR PARTNERS need to be sent to the Church Office (e-mail address below) by 5.00p.m. on **Tuesdays** Please put 'Partners' in the e-mail subject line.
Thank you, Zoe

Reflection

As we continue into the season into Lent, the final verses of a poem by George Herbert to reflect on :

It's true, we cannot reach Christ's forti'eth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid, 'Be holy ev'n as he, '
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-ways:
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn and take me by the hand, and more:
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sin and taking such repast,
As may our faults control:
That ev'ry man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlour; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

The poem is entitled 'Lent' if you want to read it in full.

Julian Sims

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

Lent 2

25th February 2024

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Breamore	Holy Communion (BCP)
25th Feb	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion followed by a baptism
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wed 28 th	7.30 pm	Fordingbridge	The Institution and Induction of the Rev'd Luke Wickings
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
3rd Mar	10.00 am	Breamore	Morning Prayer (BCP)
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts
	10.00 am	Hale	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	The 6 O'Clock Service