

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter

3rd March 2024 - Lent 3



New beginnings

I was thinking about what to write for this week's 'Partners' and, fairly obviously the phrase that came to me was New Beginnings. Sarah and I have the privilege of joining this wonderful team of churches and God's people, and of walking with you into whatever tomorrow may bring. I am the New Rector, and this a new job and a new challenge so, new beginnings for us all.

But in some ways the job we have to do together is not new at all. We have the challenge and the joy of offering to our towns and villages, to our communities and neighbours the Light of Christ. Indeed, I have always found it interesting that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World (John 8v12), but also said to his disciples (and to us) 'You are the Light of the world,' (Matthew 5v14). Jesus came to shine light into the darkness, and he still does so, but primarily through us. So, the job of the Church is to shine the light of Christ afresh for each generation. Times may change but God's call remains, we are the light of the world.

So, I am excited by the joy of joining you all, and I promise that I will serve God and you to the best of my ability. But my prayer for the coming years is not for simple continuity, it is for new beginnings, for new lives given over to Christ, for each of us to grow in Christ, and for our churches to find new and old ways to proclaim Christ to those around us.

So, thank you all so much for your wonderful welcomes, for your generosity and kindness, and for giving me the privilege of serving here as Rector. May we work together to shine Christ's light into our communities, to the glory of Jesus' name. Amen.

Luke

Rev Luke Wickings

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: 3rd March 2024

Lent 3

COLLECT:

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 19

1. The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2. One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
3. They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
4. Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world.
5. In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
6. It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
7. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
8. The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.
9. The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
Sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
11. By them also is your servant taught
And in keeping them there is great reward.
12. Who can tell how often they offend?
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
13. Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over
me;
So shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.
14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A Reading from the Book of Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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.)

Jesus cleanses the Temple from misuse, and when asked for his authority speaks of himself as the true Temple.

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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:

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Thinking of Kinkiizi in Lent . In the past, some people have felt they would like to give 40p a day during Lent to our Deanery Link in Uganda. This year their appeal is to raise funding for Nyakatare Health Centre to ensuring a reliable supply of electricity and to help with the salary of an obstetrician at the newly operational Maternity Wing. The estimated cost is £5,000. Please give any gifts to the Church Office, The Rainbow Centre, 39 Salisbury Street, SP6 1AB or place in St Mary's (FB) wall safe and mark your donation "For Kinkiizi". Direct payment can be made to Christchurch Deanery Synod Kinkiizi Account. Sort Code 52 21 34 Account Number 25750607 (ref NHC). Thank you in anticipation!

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)

Fair Trade Easter Eggs, as part of our Fair-Trade Monthly Community Coffee mornings we are taking orders for FT Easter Eggs. The Real Easter Egg with the Easter Story is milk chocolate and we are selling them for £5.50, the Dark Chocolate egg sells for £4.99 and there is a Vegan egg for £7.99. If you would like to order one please contact Ruth Crosland by email Ruth.crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or on 07855210769. Orders need to be received by **Friday March 8th**. They can then be collected from our FT Coffee morning at St Boniface, Woodgreen on Friday 22nd (between 10.30-12) or our CAMEO group that day in Woodgreen Village Hall (between 12-2) or delivered during the weekend 22nd-24th March.

With many thanks, the church Family of Hale & Woodgreen.

WATCH OUT FOR “THE CHOSEN” SERIES I Episode I (of 8) is on Saturday 9th March: 7.30pm for 8pm. It is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him, and is set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel.

Get your Free Tickets from the AVCM Charity Shop, The Branch, or online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/newlife/T-AVOPYVX Refreshments will be served. Future monthly dates through to November for 2024 will be available in our churches, or online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/newlife/t-avopyvx>

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

Do come along and join **Fordingbridge History Society** on **Monday 11 March** from 2.30pm in the Church Hall to find out all about the **Woodfalls Naval Base and Semaphore Station**. Hale based **local historian and author Peter Roberts** will share how the Semaphore Station came to be built in 1830 as part of a planned communication system between the Admiralty in London and Plymouth in Devon. For further information, contact Helen Coote on 01425 654995 or check out the website at www.fordingbridgehistorysociety.org.uk

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.

Open Doors Leaflets and Magazines for March and April have arrived! Please pick up your copy from any of the churches in our Parish. It is good to be aware of what our Christian brothers and sisters are facing elsewhere in the world, and we should not forget them.

Do You Love Swimming? Sam Coles, a member of AVC, would love to find someone who could drive her and accompany her occasionally for a 'Therapy Swim' on some Thursdays 11-12noon, at Ringwood Leisure Centre. If you could manage once a month, more frequently, or now and then, please get in touch with Sam. She lives in Green Lane. 01425 656417.

Collect & Go - Community Transport Scheme - there is a flexible bus service operating on Wednesdays in Fordingbridge and surrounding villages including Woodgreen. **Every Wednesday** there is a **different destination**, such as Stewart's Garden Centre, Romsey, Poole etc. You will have about 1.5 or 2 hours at the destination... The cost is £6 per round trip and you need to book in advance, this service is fully accessible for wheelchair users. For more details contact Nik or Sharon on 01425 461751. (9am-3pm). Thank you Richard Farr & others who found out about this, the CAMEO group members were delighted!

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

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 1st MARCH 2024

This year, the Women's World Day of Prayer was prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian Women from Palestine. The land in which Jesus was born, ministered and died, and where the Christian faith began.

This Day of Prayer encircles the globe, beginning as the sun rises over Samoa, and making its way around the Earth, ending back in Samoa at sunset. However, we can all continue this wave of prayer, as 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 isn't 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 always hears us.

A prayer included in the Women's World Day of Prayer Service:-

God of Unity, your Son, Jesus, prayed that your disciples and followers would be one, as you are one. Teach us, your servants, to treat others justly, fairly and with love even though we may speak, live and pray differently. Bless the global church and bless the faithful everywhere who share your Good News with others. Amen

May the love of Christ who always hears us when we pray, be with us today and always.

Mary Melbourne (Breamore Churchwarden, LLM and Anna Chaplain)

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 3
3rd March 2024

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

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
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Wed 6 th	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
Thurs 7 th	12.00 noon	Fordingbridge	The Funeral of the late Jessie Bicknell
Sat 9 th	7.30 pm	Fordingbridge Town Hall	The Chosen Series 1, Episode 1 "I have called you by name"
Sunday	8.15 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (BCP)
10th Mar	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00 am	Hyde	Mothering Sunday Service
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong