

10th March 2024 - Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)

Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday

'Woman, here is your son' and, to the beloved disciple 'here is your mother'

The appalling events in Gaza and Israel remind all too clearly of what breaks human communities. Hostility and accusation lead to rejection and expulsion. On route to the cross Jesus has seen the disintegration of the little community of his followers. Peter has denied him, Judas has betrayed him, and most have simply fled and forsaken him. Jesus has taken upon himself all the hostility and accusations which human beings are so capable of. But in this darkest hour something remarkable happens and it is the birth of a new community formed at the foot of the cross.

Mary is called Woman -the new eve, the mother of a new humanity, the mother of all who live by faith. The disciple loved by God and, who loves God, is born of God and becomes a son. In this small cameo we see the birth of the church. Here is our family, our mother and our brother.

On Mothering Sunday we rightly honour our mothers but we also celebrate the wider family of the church to which we belong and in which all are our sisters and brothers. This is the family that can only be formed at the foot of the cross where, in the words of the writer and theologian James Alison, 'God is among us as one who is cast out.'

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: 10th March 2024

Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)

COLLECT:

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Psalm 34: 11-20

- 11 Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous;
from them all will the Lord deliver them.
- 20 He keeps all their bones,
so that not one of them is broken.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

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 19:25b-27

Before his death on the cross, Jesus commends his mother to John's care.

²⁵ Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Or

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*

Luke 2:33-35

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

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:

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Now that **Luke Wickings** has been formally appointed as the Rector of The Parish of Fordingbridge and Hyde and Breamore and Hale with Woodgreen his **contact details** are as follows: Landline: 01425 839937, Work mobile: 07983 398984, e-mail address: rector@avonvalleychurches.org.uk **Day off: Friday**

New premises – unfortunately the Church Office needs to find an alternative location by the **beginning of May**. Does anyone know of any available office space to rent in Fordingbridge at a reasonable rate? If so please contact the church office on 01425 653163 or office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk

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 Christ-church Deanery Synod Kinkiizi Account. Sort Code 52 21 34 Account Number 25750607 (ref NHC). Thank you in anticipation!

This Sunday is Woman Composer Sunday, so the choir anthems at St Mary's Fordingbridge for both morning and evening services will be by women composers, as well as the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis at Evensong. We hope you will join us as we celebrate music by women composers.

Please note there will be **no** Lent Pray Group at Sandleheath next **Monday 11 March** due to there being a funeral in the Church. Back to normal on 18th March

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-leaded. 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 weather-proof during that time. Nigel Spratt

Do come and join **Fordingbridge History Society next 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.

Pastoral Care Meeting – Friday 15th March. The next Pastoral Care visitors meeting will take place on **Friday 15th March at 2.30pm** at Sandleheath Village Hall. The meeting will commence with a short talk by Pam Parminter explaining the work of the newly formed Miscarriage Support Group. Following refreshments, we will have our usual discussions regarding visiting within the Parish. If you are a Parish Visitor or would like to become involved in this very valuable and necessary work, please come along to the meeting or contact Mary for further details call 07710288361 or email mary.awdford@btopenworld.com. You will be most welcome to join us.
Mary Melbourne (LLM and Anna Chaplain)

FILM NIGHT AT HYDE COMMUNITY CENTRE, next to the Church, SP6 2QJ, with a Bring and Share Supper. By popular request we are holding another Film Night at **4pm on Sunday 17 March**, this time to watch "The Chosen" Series 1, Episode 1. A chance to see again the Episode shown at FB Town Hall on 9 March, or to watch it for the first time. Online Review: "I would definitely recommend The Chosen. To me, it's strongest feature is how it succeeds in bringing the well known people in the New Testament to life". Donations welcome for C.R.E.S.S. (Christian Relief and Education in South Sudan).

CARE HOME VISITS. On **Monday 18th March** we will be visiting Fordingbridge Care Home at 11am and Allenbrook at 2.30pm (both on Station Road in Fordingbridge), to provide a short service for the residents and staff. The short service lasts less than 30 minutes, and generally comprises three hymns, a reading, a short reflection and prayers. If you would like to join us, especially to help with the singing of three hymns, please meet in the reception at Fordingbridge Care Home at 10.50am and/or at Allenbrook at 2.20pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff at both places. Thank you. Mary Melbourne (LLM & Anna Chaplain)

Maundy Thursday 28th March - Hyde Church Centre at 6.30pm There will be a "Service of Shadows" in the Church Centre on Maundy Thursday. This is a very lovely service which celebrates the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. It is an adaptation of a fourth century service. It begins with a simple supper and we share communion as we hear the story of the passion and one by one the candles are extinguished. The growing darkness represents Jesus' last hours. Then at the end, after a period of silence we light a single candle as a symbol of the resurrection. We can only accommodate about 35 people so if you would like to come to this service please give your name to the office or Heather Clark (01425 656820).

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.

Reflection

Lent is generally thought of as a rather sombre time, when we remember the period leading up to Christ's suffering on the cross. There can, however, be times of celebration within this period. The service we had in St. Mary's at the end of February springs to mind, when we welcomed Luke and Sarah to our parish; and what a joyous occasion it was. This Sunday we celebrate Mothering Sunday, when quite rightly we acknowledge the debt we owe to our mothers who not only brought us into this world, but also devoted their time to bringing us up.

Personally, this year Mothering Sunday will be difficult for me; it is first year in my life of 71 years that I will not be able to tell my mother how much I love her and appreciate her. However, I will be putting flowers on her grave.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers;
thank you God for their care and concern;
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;
thank you God for all that they give us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Martin Ings

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

Rector -Rev Luke Wickings. Contact via Email rector@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or call 01425 839937 / 07983 398984. Please note Luke's day off is Friday

Lent 4

10th March 2024

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

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
Monday Wednesday Friday	10.00 am	Online	Morning prayer (<i>Meeting ID: 846 5168 7529, Password: 764200</i>)
Mon 11 th Wed 13 th	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Removal of North Chapel Window
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
17th Mar	10.00 am	Breamore	Matins
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hale	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hyde	All Age Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service

Readings for Sunday 17th March: Jeremiah 31:31-34 , Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33.