

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Passion Sunday (Lent 5)

Today, the fifth Sunday of Lent is Passion Sunday, and marks the beginning of Passiontide, the final part of Lent. It signals the movement towards Holy Week, a time when Christians take part in God's Passion, Jesus's journey to Jerusalem, His last days with His friends and then His death on the cross. 'Passion' is derived from the Latin word meaning 'to suffer' and it is the time when our focus is on the physical, mental and spiritual torments that Jesus endured for us in his final days.

Passiontide is possibly the most holy and solemn of all our Christian Festivals. It can seem to be a time of darkness and despair. However, the gospel story is the good news that offers shards of light in the darkness. We are an Easter People, even if at the moment it feels that is a long way off. Hope is at the centre of the Christian faith, the enduring knowledge of a God of Love who makes things right.

Some of the Church's most beautiful hymns are sung during Passiontide. These hymns are also food for reflection and contemplation when read slowly. The well-known verse from the hymn 'O sacred head surrounded' serves this purpose

*In this thy bitter Passion,  
Good Shepherd, think of me.  
With thy most sweet compassion,  
Unworthy though I be.  
Beneath thy Cross abiding  
Forever would I rest,  
In thy dear love confiding,  
And with thy presence blest.*

May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and healing always.

Mary Melbourne (LLM and Anna Chaplain)

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 IPT

*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: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Passion Sunday (Lent 5)

### **COLLECT:**

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

### **PSALM 51:1-13**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence  
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me  
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

- 10 Turn your face from my sins  
and blot out all my misdeeds.
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me.
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

## **A Reading from the Book of Hebrews**

*Hebrews 5: 5-10*

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you’;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.’

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*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 is approached by Gentiles, and realises that this is a turning point in his mission.  
The voice of God confirms this.*

<sup>20</sup> Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. <sup>27</sup> 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.' <sup>29</sup> Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' <sup>30</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>32</sup> Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>33</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

(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 Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

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

**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).

Please note that the **Church Office** will be **closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**CARE HOME VISITS.** On **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

**SP6 Friendship Group** – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** from 10.00am – 12.00md at the Ship Inn, Fordingbridge High Street. This group is for anyone who is bereaved or lonely and would like a cuppa and a friendly chat. We also organize outings, theatre trips and garden visits. If anyone would like to join us do come.

**Wednesday Morning Lent Course at 15 Provost Street** There will be **no** Lent course on **Wed 20 March** as I have been unexpectedly called to Grannie duties. So the last two get-togethers will be on 27 March and 10 April. Pat Bloomfield

**Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 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).

**Fordingbridge Local Church Area – Local Church Council membership and Churchwardens** On **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April** we hold our LCC AGM to which everyone is invited after the 10am service in the Church Hall. It is an opportunity to catch up with the past year and also to look forward. We need to elect the Local Church Council members and nominate two Churchwardens. Would you stand for one of these or perhaps both? The LCC looks after Fordingbridge, Godshill and Sandleheath. As well as the Churchwardens two members of the LCC sit on the PCC. If you have questions about either opportunity please speak to Nigel Spratt or Mark Ward. We hope to have the LCC nomination form in church by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>, but if not by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. Nominations need to be made by Easter Sunday. Please think seriously about being nominated. Existing LCC members need to complete a nomination to stand again. In 2024/25 the LCC will meet on Mondays from 7.30pm roughly once a month.

**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.

**Graham Fry** has a few items he would like to re-home. ...a galvanised garden **wheelbarrow** with pneumatic tyre in good condition and a **fax machine** hardly used - free. Any offer considered for the wheelbarrow, donation to church funds. Graham Fry – 01425 655083 or [graham.fry@fordingbridge.com](mailto:graham.fry@fordingbridge.com)

**Electric soup tureen** available from St Boniface, Woodgreen free to a new home. It has a thermostat to hold the liquid at the required temperature during an event.

If you know of anyone who might be interested please pass this information on.  
Contact Lynda or Ruth.

**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 2hours 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!

**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

This Lent I've been reading The Word in the Wilderness, a Poem a Day for Lent and Easter by Malcolm Guite. A wonderful and inspiring book. Highly recommended. So far this is my favourite prayer by George Herbert

Prayer the Churches banquet, Angel's age,  
God's breath in man returning to his birth,  
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,  
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth;  
Engine against th' Almightye, sinner's tower,  
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,  
The six daies world transposing in an hour,  
A kinde of tune, which all things heare and fear;  
Softnesse, and Peace, and joy, and love, and blisse,  
Exalted Manna, gladnesse of the best,  
Heaven in ordinaries, man well drest,  
The milkie way, the bird of Paradise,  
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,  
The land of spices, something understood

Beverly Judd

**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)

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

# Lent 5

## 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Matins</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>All Age Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1.15 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	The funeral of the late Pamela Fowler
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	The funeral of the late Dennis Millward
<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	Fairtrade Coffee Morning
	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	The funeral of the late William Dow
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Procession with donkeys from Hyde School ending with an All Age service in the Church at 10.00am</b>
	<b>9.40am</b>	<b>Breamore with Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Procession, starting from the Gourmet Grocer and ending with the service in the Church at 10.00am</b>
	<b>9.50 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Procession starting at Moot Lane ending with a Morning service in the Church at 10.00am</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Evensong</b>