

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Palm Sunday

### Palm Sunday

All four of the gospels tell the great story of Palm Sunday. It is a story of Jesus sending two men to find the colt of a donkey, never ridden by humans, and bringing him to Jesus. They went

and found the colt and brought it to Jesus. He rode into Jerusalem, and the people went wild, throwing cloaks onto the road, cutting palm branches, and casting them, shouting



out, and ever getting louder, “Blessed is he who comes as king in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, glory in the highest heaven”. At the temple he went in and drove the traders out. “Scripture says, My house shall be made a house of prayer; but you have made it a bandits’ cave”.

What a day of marvels to start Holy Week. I often wonder what it should have felt like to join the people who were coming with Jesus, shouting and hollering, praising God, and his Son, Jesus. Holy Week starts, and by the sixth day from now, we could well have been amongst those who had changed and were calling for his death. It is very strange how this happens, how we allow it. Today in this year 2024, we pray that we will not be amongst those who celebrate his coming, and then 6 days later, are calling for his death. We need to celebrate his coming on Palm Sunday and may we be amongst those who celebrate him on **Easter Day**.

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

Ian Newman

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

## Palm Sunday

### COLLECT:

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.

**AMEN.**

### PSALM 31:9-16

9. Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble;  
My eye is consumed with sorrow, my soul and my body also.
10. For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
My strength fails me because of my affliction, and my bones are consumed.
11. I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
When they see me in the street they flee from me.
12. I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind;  
I have become like a broken vessel.
13. For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is on every side;  
They scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.
14. But my trust is in you, O Lord.  
I have said, 'You are my God.'
15. 'My times are in your hand;  
Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
16. 'Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
And save me for your mercy's sake.'

## **A Reading from Letter of Paul to the Philippians**

*Philippians 2:5-11*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*At the end, the Reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## **THE PALM GOSPEL READING**

*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 11:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus and his disciples were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup> 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately"'. <sup>4</sup> They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup> some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' <sup>6</sup> They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!' <sup>11</sup> Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*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 humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,  
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:  
give us the mind to follow you  
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**AMEN**

Readings for Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March: Ps. 118:1-2 14-24, Acts 10:34-43 , John 20:1-18

**Greetings** to our brothers and sisters here in the beautiful New Forest. Firstly our apologies that this has not appeared sooner. We have been so blessed and welcomed here that we already feel very much 'at home' and are looking forward to meeting and getting to know each and everyone here across the benefice. Our heartfelt thanks to all who have worked so hard to give us a beautiful new home, both physically and spiritually here in Fordingbridge. We have thoroughly enjoyed all the 'goodies' you so generously gave and having a clean and welcoming house to unpack in was such a bonus. I (Sarah) will be hosting some open coffee mornings after Easter to get to know you all so look out for dates etc here.

May God Bless you all

Yours In Christ

**Luke Wickings and Sarah Watson**

**Good Friday Walk of Witness** – There will be a Churches Together Walk of Witness as usual on **Good Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March**. We leave St Mary's and the Roman Catholic Church at 10.40, with open air worship at the Market Place at 11.00. If you wish after this you can join a showing of an Episode of 'The Chosen' in the Town Hall at 11.45. There will be a short act of worship at 11.15 in St Mary's before the start of the walk.

**First Eucharist of Easter on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** - this year our first Parish Eucharist of Easter will take place at **6.30am at Godshill Cricket Forestry Car Park SP6 2LN**. This will be a wonderful way to welcome in Easter and begin our celebrations. Our new Rector Luke will preside and following our short early morning service there will be refreshments...

Volunteers are needed to assist with all aspects of the catering, bringing rolls, coffee, sausages, paper cups etc. If you can help please let Ruth Crosland know on 07855210769 or via email [Ruth.crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk)

**NB-this will be an early start as this year the clocks will have gone forward in the early hours of Easter Day!!**

**Avon Valley Men's Fellowship** - Our next supper will be on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. We meet at the Old Beams pub, Ibsley at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. After a one course supper our speaker will be Michael Walshaw who will be talking to us about the evolution of the Swanage Railway. We are a very friendly group and always keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in coming along please contact Stephen Darke for more information. Email - [darkefamily@btinternet.com](mailto:darkefamily@btinternet.com) / Telephone - 01425 656988.

### **Lay Vocations Morning – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April – POSTPONEMENT**

Regretfully, due to low numbers it has been decided to postpone this event until later in the year.

**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.

**APCM** – The Annual Meeting of the whole Parish is on **May 8<sup>th</sup>**; it is an opportunity to look back at what has happened in the previous year and to look forward with our new rector to the coming year. The Local Church committees will meet before then and each Church area will need to appoint members to the local councils.

At the APCM we will need to appoint two wardens from each church area and one lay member (the deanery reps have a three year tenure). Mark Ward is the deanery representative for Fordingbridge so if elected to continue as warden there will need to be two lay representatives from Fordingbridge so that each local church area has the agreed total of four members.

Nomination forms for wardens, local and PCC reps will be available in the churches. If you have any questions, do please discuss with your churchwardens.

**Quiz night** on the **10<sup>th</sup> of May from 8pm to 10.30pm** in aid of Bee Against Poverty Zambia at the **United Reformed Church**. £12 per team for a maximum of 6 players. Money raised will go towards Bee Against Poverty Zambia who are raising funds for an orphanage project in Kitwe Zambia. If you would to enter a team please contact via email: [beeagainstpovertyzambia@gmail.com](mailto:beeagainstpovertyzambia@gmail.com) or phone 01725 518053 by 1st May

**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!

**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)

**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!

**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: long life fruit juice, tinned carrots, tinned sweetcorn, tinned tomatoes, meat stews, tinned cold meat, sponge puddings, ketchup, chutney, spices, cooking ingredients etc. 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 **Tuesdays** Please put 'Partners' in the e-mail subject line. Thank you, Zoe



# Reflection

Not so long ago, Janet and I had a long-standing problem involving a family member which was causing us a great deal of worry and stress. One Sunday morning after the service, a lady known to you all, with great perception, asked us how we were, and we opened up to her. She said shall we pray? And took us to the North Chapel where we prayed together. After a very short time, to our surprise the problem was resolved in a wonderful way that we could not have foreseen.

A cynic would say that was coincidence, and to be honest, at one point in my life, that cynic would have been me. However, that experience hit home to me, and since then there have been other examples of my prayers for other people being answered. – The power of prayer.

I am no longer cynical about it, but I believe the power is not in the prayer, it is with the God to whom we pray. He has the wisdom to use that power in ways we do not understand, and not all our prayers are answered in the way we hope.

If you come to church on Sunday to hear the Passion of Christ being read, you will hear Jesus' cry "Why hast thou forsaken me?" He came to us in human form, and he must have prayed for the pain and suffering to end before he breathed his last breath. His prayers could not be answered, he could not be taken down from the cross. He had to endure the pain and suffering for us. His death and resurrection, had to happen for us to have the right relationship with God whose forgiveness was made once and for all through the death of His son Jesus Christ.

Nigel Spratt

## **Palm Sunday 24<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>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>
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Woodgreen	Compline
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Hyde	Maundy Thursday Meal
	7.30 pm	Fordingbridge	Last Supper and Feet Washing
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Fordingbridge	Good Friday Service
	10.45 am	Fordingbridge	Walk of Witness
	11.45 am	Fordingbridge Town Hall	The Chosen Series 1, Episode 2 "Shabbat"
	2.00 pm	Breamore	In Search of a Way (themes from St Mark's Gospel)
	2.00 pm	Hyde	Hour at the Cross
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Fordingbridge	Easter Vigil and Lighting Easter fire
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6.30 am</b>	<b>Godshill Common</b>	<b>Sunrise Service of Holy Communion</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>
	<b>10.00am</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>

**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