

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



7th April 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

I guess of all the stumbling blocks of Christian belief, belief in the resurrection of Christ, is one of the biggest. Several years ago John Humphreys conducted a survey about belief. His conclusion: 'The pulse is still strong. However empty the pews may be in parish churches on a typical Sunday morning, there are plenty of people with a sincere and passionate belief. That much is evident. There are also plenty of people who think it's all a load of nonsense.....What surprised me is how many think of themselves as neither believers nor atheists but doubters. They, too, are sincere. Devout sceptics, if you like. And many of them feel beleaguered. I'm with them.'

We should dispel any guilt we might feel in our questioning and doubting. For those first disciples the resurrection of Christ was something that slowly dawned on them. For some, recognition came through sudden startling conviction like St Paul on the road to Damascus, for others a more gradual recognition of him behind others eyes and lips, and in the simple act of breaking bread and sharing wine. And note that when push came to shove, Thomas did not need to feel the imprint of the nails and wounds. It was faith which overcame his doubt.

The believing disciples and wavering Thomas: they are both parts of me and I suspect maybe of you. Like the affirming disciples there are times when I feel really alive with every fibre of my body, mind and spirit-the moments when I feel life and love coursing through my veins -times of appreciation, and loving, seeing a way through a conflict, gaining new insight and understanding, a new truth about me and others. And there are times when a funk in sheer doubt.

As our recent Archbishop, Rowan Williams writes: 'It is doubt that is the beginning of real faith.' May we, like Thomas, be open and have the staying power to witness the pulse of endless alleluias that lie beyond our doubting!

John Towler

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: 7th April 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

COLLECT:

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

AMEN.

PSALM 133 (*For Morning Prayer*)

1. Behold how good and pleasant it is
to dwell together in unity.
2. It is like the precious oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard,
3. Even on Aaron's beard,
running down upon the collar of his clothing.
4. It is like the dew of Hermon
running down upon the hills of Zion.
5. For there the Lord has promised his blessing:
even life for evermore.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:32-35

A picture of how the first Christians tried to organise their lives.

³² The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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 20:19-31

The evening of the first Easter Day, and its sequel a week later when doubt is turned to faith.

¹⁹ When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

(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 God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

Readings for Sunday 14th Apr: Ps.4 Acts 3:12-19, Luke24: 36b-48

Please note the church office will be **closed** on **Monday 8th April**

Clarendon Palace (near Salisbury) was for centuries a significant Medieval Royal residence. Come and find out about its long and chequered history next **Monday 8 April from 7.30pm** in **St Mary's Church Hall**. **Fordingbridge History Society** will be joined by **Dr Cindy Wood** (Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Winchester and Secretary of the Friends of Clarendon Royal Palace) who'll bring the Clarendon story to life and share information about current excavations. A warm welcome is extended to visitors and guests. Please note this is an **evening** meeting. For further details contact Helen Coote on 01425 654995

Hyde Mothers Union will meet on **Tuesday, April 9th** at 7.30 (note the time change) in Hyde Church Centre. Our speakers will be Carol and Julian Sims, Their title will be "Called back to the Camino"

Hyde Local Church Area – LCC membership and Churchwarden nominations will be held at our **AGM on Wednesday 10th April** at 7.30pm in the Church Centre. Everyone is invited to hear a review of the past year and to look forward to the coming one. We need to elect/re-elect all the Local Church Council members and nominate two Churchwardens. If you are interested in standing on the LCC committee, or are interested in the role of Churchwarden please ask for a nomination form and more information from Jan Butcher or Martin Ings. Existing LCC members need to complete a nomination form to stand again. We will have the nomination forms in Church on Easter Sunday and thereafter. Nominations for **LCC** members should be received by **Tuesday 9th April**.

“HOW TO HEAR GOD” The Final Session at 15 PROVOST STREET will be on **Wed 10 April. 10.30 for 10.45 start**. Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School) will get together again on **Thursday 11 April at 10.30am** at 15 Provost Street, to watch "The Chosen" Series 3 Episode 7 "Ears to Hear". Refreshments. All welcome. Further details from Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

Sheila Rolfe. Many in the Parish will remember Sheila (wife of the late Rev. Charles Rolfe) from the time when she and Charles were very much a part of the life of Fordingbridge Parish. Sadly, Sheila died recently, and there will be a **Thanksgiving Service at St George's Church in Harnham, Salisbury on Friday 12th April at 11.30am.** May Sheila rest in peace and rise in glory.

Breamore Church – On Sunday, **14th April**, we will be holding our **Annual Church Celebration Meeting** in the Church following our 10am Service of Holy Communion with refreshments to sustain us! It is an opportunity to look back on the past year and to make plans for the year ahead. We need to elect the Local Church Council members, (meetings take place every two months), nominate two Churchwardens, a Deanery Synod Representative and a member from the LCC to serve on the PCC. Nomination Forms are in church. Everyone is welcome to come along for this important occasion. *Andy and Mary - Churchwardens*

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 16th April** 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.

Fordingbridge Choral Society will present Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" in St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge on **Saturday 20th April** at - **please note start time - 7pm.** We've invited talented soloists, pianist Sam Hanson and harmonium owner and player Dr Richard Hall. Tickets £15 in advance from ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral and Fordingbridge Bookshop, £18 at the door and **free for 18s and under.** Don't miss this exciting performance.

Hyde Church Electoral Roll. Notice is hereby given that the Electoral Roll is being revised, to be presented for the APCM on **8th May.** Please check that your details are correctly listed on the Roll which will be displayed in the Church until **21st April.**

Fordingbridge Local Church Area – Local Church Council membership and Churchwardens On **Sunday 21st 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 17th, but

if not by Sunday 24th. 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 8th**; 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 **10th 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 or phone 01725 518053 by **1st May**

Tea & Tunes Fundraiser in **St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge** on **Saturday May 11th** starting at 2.30pm. Join us for a delicious afternoon tea and a music concert and help raise some funds for Church. Tickets £15 available to buy or reserve from Jean Groves (tel 01202 822187), Jane Calver (tel 01425 656189), Viv Finch (tel 01725 512267). Please advise of any dietary requirements. There will be a raffle so any prizes you may wish to bring will be very welcome.

Save the Date - Ruth Crosland's Ordination as a Deacon - **Sunday June 30th** at 10.00am in **Winchester Cathedral**. More details to follow.....

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!

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 was sent to me as an e-mail by Jeff Williams a few weeks ago. It really made me think. Please spare the time to read it, as suggested, both ways.

Poem about refugees Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read the poem again from bottom to top)

Lynda Warne

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

Second Sunday of Easter

7th April 2024

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
7th Apr	10.00 am	Breamore	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts
	10.00am	Hale	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	The 6 O'Clock Service
Wed 10th	10.00 am	Frogham Chapel	Prayer Gathering
Sunday	8.15 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (BCP)
14th Apr	9.15 am	Hyde	Breakfast
	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Hyde	Informal Service
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong