

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



14th April 2024 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

When is a beefburger more than a beefburger? I was pondering on this after a recent visit from a teenage grandson. For Reuben, eating a beefburger under the golden icon of a McDonald's restaurant made it taste so much better. Reuben would not have expressed the experience this way but perhaps it was a sign of being part of a 'global modernity' It has a sacramental meaning that demonstrates he belonged to a world of young consumers. It was a sharing 'in' and a sharing 'with' that represented more than a beefburger.

It is striking that the appearances of the risen Christ usually involve eating together. Whether it be broiled fish or bread and wine: whether it be on the lakeside, in the upper room, or at Emmaus, the meals are signs of sharing together. No doubt the disciples were reminded of Jesus' meals before his death with tax collectors and sinners or with crowds by the Sea of Galilee. All were included and when Jesus blessed bread all shared in his 'companionship' (a word with Latin roots meaning literally to share bread).



The meals with Jesus remind us that the Eucharist is much more than bread and wine. It is a sharing 'in' and a sharing 'with' others in the blessing of God and participation in a global kingdom.

Eastertide greetings

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: 14th April 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

COLLECT:

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

AMEN.

PSALM 4

1. Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
You set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2. How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
How long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
3. But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
When I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4. Stand in awe, and sin not;
Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
5. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
And put your trust in the Lord.
6. There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
7. You have put gladness in my heart,
More than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
8. In peace I will lie down and sleep,
For it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 3:12-19

Peter has just healed a lame man, and explains that it was the power of Jesus who has been raised from the dead which enabled this.

¹² Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴ But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷ And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

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 Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Luke 24:36b-48

Two disciples have just come back from Emmaus on the evening of Easter Day.

As they are describing how they have met Jesus, he appears to them all again.

³⁶ While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece

of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.'

(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:

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

AMEN

Readings for Sunday 21st Apr: Ps.23 Acts 4:5-12 John 10:11-18

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*

The Church Family of **Hale and Woodgreen** will be holding our **Annual Church Celebration** meeting on **Sunday after the 10am Service** at St Boniface Church, Woodgreen. We anticipate a start date of approx.. 11.15am. Light refreshments will be served as we celebrate and look back over our activities during the last 12 months. There will also be elections for our LCC members and nominations for two churchwardens. Nomination forms are in both churches or can they be obtained by contacting Lynda Warne or Ruth Crosland. Many thanks.

Care home Visits - On **Monday 15th April** we will be visiting Fordingbridge Care Home at I Iam to provide a short service for the residents and staff. Unfortunately, we are not able to visit Allenbrook on that day, but will do so on **Monday 22nd April** at 2.30pm instead. 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 homes. Thank you. Mary Melbourne (LLM & Anna Chaplain)

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.

The Fordingbridge Annual Town Assembly is being held on **17th April 2024** at **7:00 p.m.** in **The Town Hall**, 63 High Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AS. Kate Ryan, the Chief Executive of the New Forest District Council will be talking about: “The New Forest District Council’s new corporate plan, priorities for the future and the implications for Fordingbridge.”

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.

THE NEXT SATURDAY FILM NIGHT AT THE TOWN HALL FB is on **20 April.** Doors open 7.30 for 8pm. ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children’ is a delightful 36 minute long film. [The Chosen Series | Episode 3] Tickets (free) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/newlife or the AVCM Charity Shop, or The Branch. Collect your free refreshments in the Hall on the way to your seat. Expect to see people in the New Testament brought to life.

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.

Sarum College Library is holding more open days for the Saint John's Bible, a rare facsimile of the first hand-written, hand-illustrated bible to be produced in 500 years. All seven volumes will be on display in the Seaton Room from Thursday **25th April to Sunday 28th April**, from **10am to 5pm** each day. The information is on the College website at <https://www.sarum.ac.uk/short-courses/sjb-open-days/>. Do join us for the chance to see these stunning volumes displayed together. Guides will be on hand to answer questions and visitors may take photographs.

Greetings to my brothers and sisters here in Fordingbridge and hereabouts! I will be having a few **coffee mornings in May** to get to know you all. They will be on each **Wednesday** throughout **May** EXCEPT for the 8th. It will be an open house from 10am until 12 midday and there will be tea, coffee etc and biscuits and good company. I very much look forward to getting to know you all better.

Sarah (71 Church Street 😊)

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.....

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

Although we have moaned about all the rain recently, I have been able to get out into the garden to 'start'. The greenhouse has been sorted and seeds sown. In the beds and borders, wonderful joy as new growth is spotted – they have survived the winter yet again. Oh Oh, here come the slugs and snails! These are trials to afflict my little plants; but I am there to protect them and help them flourish.

I don't know how this year will unfold but I am full of hope and amazement at God's incredible world. The joy and hope from my garden mirrors the joy and hope we received from God over the Easter period. We remembered how dark and awful were the days that Jesus and the disciples endured, leading up to the worst of days on Good Friday; but then we saw the amazement and wonderment of the disciples as they met the Risen Lord.

God watches over us to see the growth and the flourishing of our lives as we follow Him and live in His Spirit. As Jesus met Mary outside the tomb, He will meet us in our darkest times to lift our spirits and give us hope. As Jesus met Thomas, when he had doubts and was stumbling and could have fallen, so He will hold out His hand to us for us to hold and touch. As Jesus met the disciples in their closed and locked room, so he will meet us in our innermost self to inspire and give courage.

I don't know how this year will unfold, but God does. He will be there to protect, comfort, and help us to flourish, if we turn to Him and listen to Him always.

" For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13.

Jan Butcher

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

Third Sunday of Easter

14th April 2024

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

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
Wed 17th	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Heather Cottage	Bible Study
Fri 19th	1.00 pm	Hyde	The funeral of the late Celia Hardy
	2.00 pm	Fordingbridge	The funeral of the late Malcolm Evans
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
21st Apr	10.00 am	Breamore	Matins
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Morning Service
	10.00am	Hyde	Informal Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hale	Morning Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Morning Service
	11.45 am	Fordingbridge	Baptism