

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### Is it the season ...

.... for coughs, colds and a general post-Covid lethargy? Together with some rather gloomy days, what happened to Spring? The dafs are fading, yet the trees are sprouting, so they are waking up!

I wonder if, like us, you find it all too easy to “drop off” during the day, yet wake during the night, yes, for a wander to the bathroom, but then a time awake thinking of things that have happened, things to be done, and “things” getting all out of proportion?

Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat, the disciples slept in the garden as Jesus was betrayed, and Eutichus fell asleep during a sermon (that surely could not happen today?!). We all need to be refreshed and renewed by sleep, but what of those waking hours? What do you do?

It's just as well that God is awake and ready 24/7 to hear us, and speak with us, as our loving heavenly Father. So, in the dark reaches of the night, we can open our hearts and minds to Him in prayer, bringing our hopes and fears, family and friends to a Father who is concerned to hear and answer. How does He answer? I believe it can be a great help if we pray a well-known prayer – the Lord's Prayer, a familiar collect or blessing, recall a verse, passage of scripture – a psalm, 23, 121, 139 perhaps. It's so important to try to memorise such verses for times such as this, when we can be encouraged in the dark hours. Many testify as to how God reminds them of a promise or word of encouragement from scripture, just at the time they need it. Perhaps keep a book of prayers or Bible readings beside the bed, even if you peacefully fall asleep – with the light still on!

Praise and thank God that He is there, is awake and ready to reassure you of His presence at all hours of the day and night. Sleep well!

Canon Michael Anderson

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: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### **COLLECT:**

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**AMEN.**

### **PSALM 23**

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
Therefore can I lack nothing.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures  
And leads me beside still waters.
3. He shall refresh my soul  
And guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
You have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
6. Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John are arrested after healing the lame man, and questioned about their authority.*

<sup>5</sup> The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup> When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." <sup>12</sup> There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

*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 10:11-18*

*Jesus the Good Shepherd willing to lay down his life.*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: <sup>11</sup> 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away - because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other

sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

(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:**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN**

Readings for Sunday 28th Apr: Ps.22.25-end Acts 8:26-end John 15:1-8

---

**Fordingbridge Choral Society** will present Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" in St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 1 Episode 3] Tickets (free) from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/newlife](http://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 **8<sup>th</sup> May**. Please check that your details are correctly listed on the Roll which will be displayed in the Church until **21<sup>st</sup> April**.

**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.

**CARE HOME VISITS.** On **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** we will be visiting Allenbrook Care Home at 2.30pm 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 Allenbrook at 2.20pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff. Thank you. Mary Melbourne (LLM & Anna Chaplain)

**TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School) will be meeting on Wednesdays in future:** next one on **24 April**, 11am til 12.30pm. at 15 Provost Street. Time to take Communion in St Mary's before joining us to watch a DVD, discuss and pray. Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

**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 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: [beeagainstopovertyzambia@gmail.com](mailto:beeagainstopovertyzambia@gmail.com) or phone 01725 518053 by **1<sup>st</sup> May**

**1st FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR** for St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge. Saturday **May 11<sup>th</sup>** in Church starting at 2.30pm. Join us for a delicious full **AFTERNOON TEA with MUSIC CONCERT**. All proceeds to Church funds. "Tea and Tunes" tickets £15 available to buy or reserve (so we know how many to cater for) 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.

**Open Gardens 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> May** - Over the late May Bank Holiday weekend a number of gardens mainly belonging to St Mary's Fordingbridge congregation members will be open to visit in aid of church funds. Please watch this space for further details so you can visit as many as you like! Some will also offer refreshments. There will be flyers available and details on the AVC website.

**The PARISH MISSION MATTERS GROUP (PMMG) are meeting on Monday 3 June** at 7pm in Godshill. This gathering is open to all with a passion for Christian Mission of any kind. Mark your diary NOW! Further details from Pat B if you haven't been before (07985 938644)

**Ruth Crosland** - Ordination **Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>** at 10am at **Winchester Cathedral**. You are all welcome to join Ruth at this very special event. After the service light refreshments will be served in a hotel close to the Cathedral. To enable Ruth to collect numbers it would be helpful to advise **Zoe at the Parish Office** ([office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk](mailto:office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) or 01425 653163 ) or Ruth ([Ruth.Crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.Crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) or 07855 210769) if you plan to attend. Please can you put "June 30th" in the heading/subject line. As parking is at a premium on Sundays in Winchester transport may be available from Fordingbridge, departure

time approx.. 8.15am and a return to Fordingbridge at approx. 5pm. Anticipated approximate cost £18 per person. Please also indicate whether you wish to have a seat.

**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

To follow our readings in church over the last few weeks, a poem written by Amy Robinson:

Jesus in the garden, newly risen from the dead, who stood by weeping Mary, and who heard the words she said as if you were the gardener, till at last your shepherd's voice called her 'Mary' and with one word gave her reason to rejoice, Jesus in the garden, ever new but still the same, help me recognise you in the speaking of my name.

Jesus on the journey, fellow traveller on the road, who met two sad disciples, walking with them as you showed the meaning of the scriptures that predicted you would rise, but only when you blessed the meal could they believe their eyes.

Jesus on the journey, meet me where my hopes have fled, help me recognise you in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus in the locked room, breaking through despair and doubt, who comforted your friends when they had shut the whole world out, who came again for Thomas, and revealed your hands and side so that he could touch and know you as alive, though you had died.

Jesus in the locked room, breaking through our self-built bars, help me recognise you in the touching of your scars.

Jesus on the shoreline, cooking breakfast for your friends, who offered guilty Peter one more chance to make amends, who filled a net with fish for him, and helped him to recall the first catch that convinced him to respond to your first call.

Jesus on the shoreline, know my best, forgive my worst, help me recognise you in the way I met you first.

(C) Amy Robinson/engageworship.org

Julian Sims

**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

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

21<sup>st</sup> April 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>21<sup>st</sup> Apr</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>10.00am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Informal Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>11.45 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Frogham Chapel</b>	<b>Informal Communion</b>
	<b>12.15 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>The funeral of the late Ronald Crisp</b>
<b>Fri 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Fairtrade Coffee Morning</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion followed by a Bring and Share lunch</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Methodist Service</b>
	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Evensong</b>