

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

This week the readings are only going to Wednesday, when to our great astonishment the readings change. For on Thursday we reach one of the great festivals of the Christian church. Yet this is a day which we often forget. It is the festival of Ascension Day.

After the great festival of Easter, Jesus has risen and spends many days teaching and healing his people. He knows that the time is coming for him to leave the earth and take up his true home in heaven. He has told his disciples that he will give them the Holy Spirit, to help and encourage them, and to be their comforter. What a wonderful gift. But what is great about the gift, is that the Holy Spirit is there for each of us, if we believe in God, and his Son.

Jesus, called his disciples and flock together and spoke with them, and as they spoke they went to Bethany, and there he blessed them. As he was blessing them, **He was taken by God into heaven.** There is nothing more to be said.

The disciples were amazed, and they went back to Jerusalem to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, as he had promised them. What a wonderful gift for them, and each of us who have followed them, and for all those who will follow after us.

“He took them unto Bethany, and raised his hands on heigh, and as they stood there looking up, he rose glorious to the sky.”

Let us have a go, at trusting God, and his Son, and especially the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Jesus Ascension.

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: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

### **COLLECT:**

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**AMEN.**

### **PSALM 98**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm  
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation;  
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness  
towards the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;  
break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,  
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands  
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world  
and the peoples with equity.

## A Reading from I John

*I John 5:1-6*

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*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 15:9-17*

*Jesus tells the disciples that the fruit of their relationship with him must be love.*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>9</sup>‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.’

*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:**

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**AMEN**

Readings for Sunday 12th May: Ps. 1, I John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19

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Please note the church office will be **shut** on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

We are a small happy band of ladies on the **Fordingbridge Flower Rota** but would love to have some more help if you would be interested in joining us. The more the merrier as they say. Contact Helen Tague at [thetagues@fordingbridge.com](mailto:thetagues@fordingbridge.com) or telephone 01425 655462. Thank you.

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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 😊)

**Plant Sale** - Fordingbridge Choral Society Saturday morning, **4<sup>th</sup> May 2024** in St Mary's Church Hall from **10am until 12 noon**. As well as all the plants there will be Cakes and Bakes, Jams and Preserves and Bring and Buy. Admission is £1, and please bring your own bags! Refreshments available too.

**Woodgreen Model and live Steam Show:** Yes, we are back again at Woodgreen village hall (SP6 2AJ) on **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May from 10am till 5pm**. Suitable for all the family. We have model railway layouts indoors, live steam outdoors, crafts in the church next door. Home made refreshments available through out the day. Raising money for Spires Smiles, Alzheimer's society and St Mary's church, Hale roof fund.

**Fordingbridge 5<sup>th</sup> May:** As has been the custom in the past the choir will be Mayday singing from the tower prior to the 10.00am service. Please come early so you can hear this very special tradition.

**Thy Kingdom Come - a message from Luke** - Thy Kingdom Come is a national and international prayer initiative started by the present Archbishop of Canterbury. It's aim and purpose is to encourage churches to pray for God's kingdom to come in our communities, in our families, across the world and, of course, in our own lives. It seems to me that we should join in with praying for God's kingdom to come in our churches and in our communities. I would therefore like to see a variety of prayer

meetings of various sorts happening in our churches. Thy Kingdom Come runs from Ascension Day, 9 May until Pentecost, 19 May. Could I therefore invite anyone interested, from any of our churches, to join me on **Sunday 5 May** for a **planning meeting** at the rectory. This will be held at **2pm**.

Alternatively, if you would like to email me or call me that would be great; or, as a local church community, if you can just plan some prayer meetings, then please do so. All I ask is that you email the dates to the parish-office so that people from across the benefice can join your meetings. Meetings can be in churches, in homes, in halls or via zoom. The key thing is for us to spend time in prayer as churches. Our churches and our communities need God's Kingdom to come. Let's pray for that to happen. Luke.

**SP6 Friendship Group** – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** 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.

**APCM** – The Annual Meeting of the whole Parish is on **May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm** 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.

**Fordingbridge LCC (St Mary's and Sandleheath Uniting Church) – very important and urgent**. At the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April all those nominated as LCC members were elected. Our first meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 7.30 in St Mary's Hall. We need 4 people on PCC. Mark Ward and Ian Newman agree to be nominated (Mark as a Churchwarden) however we need one other LCC member to sit on PCC **and another churchwarden**. If you would consider volunteering please contact Mark asap. If you are not already an LCC member we can co-opt you. It is **vital** we have two Wardens. We must do this by May 8<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Parish Church Meeting where nominations for PCC are agreed. Mark@fordingbridge.com or 07833 477834.

**Ascension Day Service** - please come and join and join us at **Hyde at 7.30pm** on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** for our united Ascension Day Service. Michael Anderson will be lading and Luke Wickings will be preaching.

**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.

**Hyde Mothers' Union** next meeting is on **May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm** at Hyde Church Centre. Our speaker is Valerie Young her topic is "Travels to the East". Valerie has spoken to us before and is a very interesting speaker. All are welcome to come and hear her

**"The Chosen" Season 1 Free Film Shows at the Town Hall FB:** This authentic recreation of Bible stories, with back stories that are credible, is not to be missed. So far there have been 3 Shows in the Town Hall, and there are 7 more Episodes from Series 1 to come in 2024. 7.30 for 8pm on Saturday nights monthly, with the **next Film Night on 18 May**. Small yellow "Chosen" cards with dates will soon be available in any of our churches. Or look on Facebook for Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District. To explore more, **download the free 'The Chosen' App** on your mobile phone Or look at **www.thechosen.tv**. "The Chosen" is now one of the most watched shows in the world: it's been streamed by over 172 million people, and made available in 50 languages, with many more coming soon.

### **OPEN GARDENS Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

Please support the Fordingbridge Open Gardens event over the late May bank holiday. There are 9 gardens open and for a single suggested donation of £10 you can visit all of them plus you can have refreshments at a riverside location (and at some gardens) ! Leaflets are available in all of our churches – please take a few and pass to your friends. You can also find all the details here: [www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/open-gardens](http://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/open-gardens)

**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.

**Open Doors Leaflets and Magazines** for May and June have arrived! Please pick up your copy from any of the churches in our Parish. Our persecuted family appreciate our prayers so much, and can inspire us!

**Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District (CTFD)** take it in turns to produce a monthly prayer sheet. New Life's prayers for May are in our churches now. Please pick up your copy.

**Help needed** - The office move is happening very shortly so please can anyone help with doing some shredding /sorting? Many hands make light work so any volunteers will be very welcome (even if you can only spare an hour). If you can spare a little time please let me know. Thanks Zoe

**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.

## Reflection

“Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.” Luke 24: 50-53.

Forty days after the Resurrection is Ascension Day; this year Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Rev. Richard Warren was largely instrumental in having Hyde Church built in the middle of the nineteenth century and it was dedicated to the Holy Ascension. Therefore, Ascension Day at Hyde is nearest thing we have to a Patronal Festival, so how appropriate that we should share this and welcome the whole parish. We hope to involve as many people as possible from all our churches.

While at the service take time to wonder at the stained glass window at the East end. This was donated by Rev. Richard Warren and is rather unique; along with Jesus being raised up to heaven there are angels and the apostles with Mathias who had not got his halo at this stage. Rather controversially when it was dedicated, in the centre is Mary Magdalen dressed in red.

Martin Ings (Churchwarden of the Church of Holy Ascension, Hyde)

**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

# **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

## **5<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

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

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>               | <b>8.15 am</b>  | <b>Fordingbridge</b>                   | <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>                  |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>   | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Breamore</b>                        | <b>Morning Service</b>                       |
|                             | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Fordingbridge</b>                   | <b>Allsorts</b>                              |
|                             | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Hyde</b>                            | <b>Morning Service</b>                       |
|                             | <b>10.45 am</b> | <b>Sandleheath</b>                     | <b>Methodist Service</b>                     |
|                             | <b>11.00 am</b> | <b>Woodgreen</b>                       | <b>Steam Show Worship</b>                    |
|                             | <b>6.00 pm</b>  | <b>Fordingbridge</b>                   | <b>The Six O'Clock Service</b>               |
| <b>Wed 8<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Frogham Chapel</b>                  | <b>Prayer Gathering</b>                      |
|                             | <b>7.30pm</b>   | <b>Fordingbridge<br/>(Church Hall)</b> | <b>APCM</b>                                  |
| <b>Thurs 9<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>7.30pm</b>   | <b>Hyde</b>                            | <b>Ascension Day Service</b>                 |
| <b>Sat 11<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>2.30pm</b>   | <b>Fordingbridge</b>                   | <b>Afternoon Tea with Music<br/>Concert.</b> |
| <b>Sunday</b>               | <b>8.15 am</b>  | <b>Hyde</b>                            | <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>                  |
| <b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>9.15 am</b>  | <b>Hyde</b>                            | <b>Breakfast</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>10.00 am</b> | <b>Hyde</b>                            | <b>Informal Service</b>                      |
|                             | <b>10.00 am</b> | <b>Woodgreen</b>                       | <b>Morning Service</b>                       |
|                             | <b>10.45 am</b> | <b>Sandleheath</b>                     | <b>Methodist Service</b>                     |
|                             | <b>6.00 pm</b>  | <b>Fordingbridge</b>                   | <b>Evensong</b>                              |