

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



**12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Sunday after the Ascension**

This Sunday, the seventh Sunday of Easter and the Sunday after Ascension Day, our gospel reading taken from the Gospel of St. John, is a beautiful, inspiring prayer offered by Jesus for his disciples.

It is such a gift and blessing to be prayed for. I know that I personally appreciate anyone who offers to pray for me, and I consider it a privilege to remember people in my prayers too. Prayer is a remarkable gift, because it opens us up to God's promises, and invites Him to help us, and those for whom we are praying. Every prayer is heard by God, which means that every time we pray, or are prayed for, something quite wonderful happens.

However, sometimes when we pray, we may feel that we are praying alone. However, this is certainly not the case, as in monastic houses from ancient times and still today, prayers were and are said seven times daily, spread at roughly three-hourly intervals. This means that throughout the world, there must be someone praying during every minute of the day and night.

Prayer is how we actively practice believing, and it should never be the last resort of God's people, it should always be our first point of action. Throughout His life, we have so many accounts of Jesus praying, not forgetting that He taught us all how to pray with The Lord's Prayer.

During the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost we are encouraged to participate in the national and international prayer initiative – *Thy Kingdom Come*. This global ecumenical prayer movement invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. So please take this opportunity to join with thousands of Christians around the globe to light up the world in prayer.

Mary Melbourne (LLM and Anna Chaplain)

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

## Sunday after the Ascension

### COLLECT:

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin  
may find forgiveness and know your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**AMEN.**

### PSALM I

1. Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
2. Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And they meditate on his law day and night.
3. They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
Bearing fruit in due season,
4. With leaves that do not wither;  
Everything they do shall prosper.
5. It is not so with the wicked:  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away;
6. Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes,  
Nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

### **A Reading from I John**

*I John 5. 9-13*

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*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 17:6-19*

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: <sup>6</sup> ‘Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.’

*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:**

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN**

Please note the office will be shut on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May** and **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May** for the move. The new address is 16 The Glasshouse Studios, Fryern Court Road, Fordingbridge. SP6 1QX. The phone number will remain the same but there will be a small delay in connecting it so if possible please only e-mail on office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk. Many thanks to the team of helpers who have assisted in sorting, shredding and dump trips - I very much appreciate all of your help and giving up your spare time. Also please note for a limited time only there are some A4 folders and hanging files available that are surplus to requirement. They will be stored in the church hall at Fordingbridge so please let me know if you would like any. Many thanks Zoe

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 or telephone 01425 655462. Thank you.

This Sunday at **St Boniface Church, Woodgreen** we will be celebrating the work of **Christian Aid**. Our 10am Service will reflect their work and afterwards there will be refreshments including cake! All donations will go to support the work of this amazing charity!

**An additional 08.15am BCP Holy Communion service at Fordingbridge:**

This will be included on the fourth Sunday of the month with the agreement of the Rector and the LCCs' at Breamore and Fordingbridge. Formerly hosted by St Mary's Breamore, this service is replaced at Breamore by a 10am Common Worship service of Holy Communion with hymns.

I will be having a few **coffee mornings in May** to get to know you all. They will be on each **Wednesday** throughout **May**. 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 😊)

**Thy Kingdom Come** - I am grateful to my mum for many things. But one of the things I am especially grateful for is the fact that she prayed for many years for me to find my faith. It took many years, but she never gave up. And I am so happy that she got to see me return to church before she died in 2019. When we pray for people to seek and find faith, lives are changed, and great things can happen. Wouldn't it be amazing for us to see more of our friends and family in church seeking and finding faith? Thy Kingdom Come is all about us praying for more people to come to faith. So can we ask for everyone in AVC to pray regularly for 5 people they know over the next year? And to be prepared to witness to them, when the time is right? Because I know that my mum's prayers made a difference to me. So let's see what difference we can all make to someone else. Please do also come to one of the prayer meetings over the next week. Alex Sains

## Thy Kingdom Come 2024

Please join us as we pray with other Churches around the world for God's Kingdom to come, here and around the world.

There will be a number of prayer meetings across the benefice and I have listed these below. It would be great if you could join as many of these as possible. It is a great thing to pray together. But please also pray individually and make prayer for God's kingdom to come a central part of your personal prayers.

We are also each encouraged to prayerfully choose 5 people who we will pray for over the coming year to come to faith, who we will witness to, and who we will invite to appropriate church events.

Our Prayer this year will focus on 4 areas:

1. For God's kingdom to come in our nation.
2. For people to be saved.
3. For our 5 specific people each.
4. For God's Kingdom to come: in our churches, in our communities and across the Avon Valley.

	TKC event	Led by
May 9 <sup>th</sup> Thurs	Ascension Day Service at Hyde 7.30pm	Michael and Luke
May 10 <sup>th</sup> Fri		
May 11 <sup>th</sup> Sat		
May 12 <sup>th</sup> SUN	11am Prayer meeting at Woodgreen	Beverly Judd
May 13 <sup>th</sup> Mon	4pm Prayer meeting St Mary's Fordingbridge	Luke
May 14 <sup>th</sup> Tues	11am Prayer meeting at Godshill	Pat
	6.15pm Prayer meeting at Breamore	Mary Melbourne
May 15 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10am Prayer meeting in Hyde Church	Sheilah Collis
May 16 <sup>th</sup> Thur	7.30am Prayer meeting St Mary's Fordingbridge	Luke
May 17 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10am Sandleheath, Prayer meeting	Sue Ledger
	2.30pm Sandleheath Village Hall	Mary Melbourne
May 18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	5.30pm Ecumenical Prayer meeting at St Mary's Fordingbridge	Luke and Julian
	7.30pm The Chosen, showing at the Town Hall	Julian and Pat
May 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Pentecost service in all Churches	

**NB:** There will be literature to help people to pray for God's Kingdom to Come in all of the churches including St Giles', Godshill, which will be open for prayer every day from 8am to 6pm.

**Sandleheath Uniting Church** are holding a Soup Lunch for Christian Aid Week on **Monday 13 May from 12 to 2p.m.** All are 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.

**Spring cleaning time@** St Mary's Church, Hale: We would welcome help from across the AVC to help us make our grade I listed church 'Wedding ready'. There are seven weddings from June through to November. If you can help on either **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** from 10.30 am and/or **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May** from midday. We have indoor and outdoor tasks which were recommended in our recent quinquennial report. Bring your own tools/cleaning products if you can. Thank you Lynda Warne and Chris Calder Churchwardens

**"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.

**CARE HOME VISITS.** On **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May** we will be visiting Fordingbridge Care Home at 11am and Allenbrook Care Home at 2.30pm to provide a short service for the residents and staff. The 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)

**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). Margaret

and Michael Ireland are among those opening their garden on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of May. They have decided not to offer refreshments to the visitors but Mike will play a chosen song for them on his electric guitar for a donation if they wish.

**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 or 01425 653163 ) or Ruth (07855 210769 or Ruth.Crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) 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

Prayer takes many forms and is beneficial in all circumstances. But have you realised how good it is for YOU? To have someone who will always listen, whatever your worries and cares. To know someone for whom your wellbeing is paramount.

Regular time spent with God is a privilege, not only deepening your relationship, but nurturing your body, mind and spirit. We all need help to cope these days, making time for this is a necessity.

Justin Welby was once asked if he had time to pray and he answered that the busier he was, the more he prayed. And as one of my favourite prayers ends, 'you need not cry out very loud, He is nearer than you think.'

Beverly Judd

**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

# **Sunday after the Ascension**

## **12<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>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>
<b>Wed 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Thurs 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>The Thanksgiving Service of the late Ina Cribb</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</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>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Informal Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>