

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Trinity 3

### Father's Day ...

Not so well known and recognised as Mother's Day, or better still, Mothering Sunday, but we do well to spare a thought for fathers this week.

We've all had one, and are grateful. For some, memories are dark, of "distant" fathers, difficult fathers, fathers who bullied. But mostly we have good memories. Sometimes we wish we had communicated better, dialogued more – "I wish I had asked more about ... I wish I had been more grateful ... I miss the time spent together". Think about how we almost subconsciously learnt lessons in behaviour and obedience, surprised when attitudes were challenged – and yet grateful. In our senior years we notice how fathers behave today, how differently. With differences in age come judgements about words, attitudes and behaviour: "I wouldn't have said or done that ... are swear words learnt at school, or at home ...?" Is there some way we can encourage and support fathers, with practical help or a careful chat?

It makes our relationship with God all the more amazing, when His Son invites us to call His Father, "our Father"! Jesus taught us how to speak with His Father, and how to listen. He guides us about our daily walk with God (did we enjoy walks with our earthly father?). Are we grateful for every expression of His love for us – the beauty of His creation, His care and consideration for our well-being, health and friendships? He not only creates, but sustains and renews. When we are sick or injured, He renews and restores. When we are perplexed over decisions made or positions challenged (I have an election in mind!), do we seek His will and direction in our prayers? Are we grateful for His forgiveness?

So is Father's Day an occasion when we can review and renew our relationship with our heavenly Father, looking at our personal and corporate prayer life? In our requests, can we also be grateful? Can we carefully prepare for meeting with fathers who might be struggling today? To guide without judging?

May our heavenly Father lead us into a deeper relationship with Him, and a greater understanding of fathers who we might meet this week?

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 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: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## Trinity 3 - Father's Day

### COLLECT:

God our Saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**AMEN.**

### PSALM 92 1-8

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord  
and to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- 2 To tell of your love early in the morning  
and of your faithfulness in the night-time,
- 3 Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon the harp,  
and to the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, Lord, have made me glad by your acts,  
and I sing aloud at the works of your hands.
- 5 O Lord, how glorious are your works!  
Your thoughts are very deep.
- 6 The senseless do not know,  
nor do fools understand,
- 7 That though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all the workers of iniquity flourish,
- 8 It is only to be destroyed for ever;  
but you, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.

## A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

*II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-21*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. <sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;\* even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,\* not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*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 *Mark*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)**

*Mark 4:1-20*

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. <sup>2</sup>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup>“Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain,

growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’<sup>9</sup> And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.<sup>11</sup> And he said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret<sup>\*</sup> of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup>in order that “they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.”’<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables?’<sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word.<sup>15</sup> These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.<sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.<sup>17</sup> But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.<sup>\*</sup><sup>18</sup> And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word,<sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing.<sup>20</sup> And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’

*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:**

O God, your beauty is beyond our imagining  
and your power we cannot comprehend:  
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,  
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear  
until we may look upon you without fear;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**AMEN**

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**LUKE out and about: Monday**, PCC meeting in the evening, **Tuesday**, Memorial service at Breamore in the morning, office at lunchtime and Year 6 leavers service at Hyde in the afternoon followed by Allsorts planning meeting. **Wednesday**. Meeting the Diocesan team at Winchester in the morning and Breamore Assembly in the afternoon. **Thursday**, team meeting first thing and assembly at Hyde school in the afternoon, **Friday**, day off but attending Hale primary school in the morning. **Saturday**. Deanery ideas fare in the afternoon

**Graham Fry** - After many years dedicated service Graham has decided to “retire” from serving in Fordingbridge. He has led the team for many years and oversees a lot of planning and setting up, far more than we see. Graham’s final service will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and it would be lovely to see as many people to help us thank him. We

would also like to show our appreciation by way of a gift so if you would like to join into that please can you place something in an envelope with "Graham" on the front of it and either place it in the collection plate in St Mary's or in the wall safe by the North Door.

**A message from Sarah** : "I would just like to say a big Thankyou to all the lovely people that came to my Wednesday coffee mornings. It has been a pleasure to meet you all and start to get to know you. For those who didn't manage to make it I will be holding some more soon. Watch this space!!" Sarah x

**Fellowship Walk Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June** - Please meet in Sandleheath at 6pm by the post box on Old Brickyard Rd (the road that leads into the Industrial Estate – First right once in Sandleheath 150 yards after the Village Hall). Parking should be available on the roadside or can be accessed within the industrial units. We will walk a circuit from Sandleheath to Damerham and back. Mark Ward 07833 477834

**CARE HOME VISITS.** On **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** we will **not** be visiting Fordingbridge Care Home due to illness within the home. However, we will be visiting **Allenbrook Care Home at 2.30pm** as usual to provide a short service for the residents and staff. The service lasts less than 30 minutes, and generally comprises hymns, a reading, a short reflection and prayers. If you would like to join us, especially to help with the singing of the 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)

**SP6 Friendship Group** – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June** 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.

**St Mary's Fordingbridge Churchyard and Hall Car Park** - There will be a working party on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **9-12** to tidy up both areas. We will need to start at the hall as there is an event there from late morning and then go around the immediate area of the church building and the area in front of the new fence to the east boundary. Please bring gloves and weeding equipment.

**Deanery Ideas Fair (DiF):** The DiF is from **2.00-4.00p.m.** at **St Mary's Church Hall**, Fordingbridge, SP6 1BB, on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. There will be tables for each of the Parishes. During the afternoon, Cream Teas will be served. There is parking at the Church and everyone is invited to come. This is for all congregation members as well as PCCs and all in leadership in any form.

**Hyde Fair Trade** - Please join us between 2.00pm and 5.00pm on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** at Hyde Church Centre for our **Fair Trade Event**. Fair Trade cards, crafts and food will be available to purchase. Cream Teas and refreshments will be served. All money raised will be sent to support Fair Trade projects. Thank you for your support.

Church choir members **Annette Young** and **Margaret Ward** have swapped their choir robes for running gear and have registered to enter the **Exbury Gardens 10k** run on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** to raise funds for St Mary's church, Fordingbridge! Please support them, if you can, by donating via the 'Donate with Card' link found on the AVC website: [www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/give](http://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/give) or using the QR code.

**TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School) will be meeting on WEDNESDAY 26 June 10.30am til 12.15pm.** at 15 Provost Street. Come and join us as we watch a DVD, over a coffee (or tea), discuss what we have watched, and pray together. All welcome. Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

**Midsummer Music Festival Postponed:** Unfortunately the organizers have become aware that major roadworks are planned effectively shutting down the roads in the town centre, and cutting off access to the church (except via a circuitous route and small lane even locals avoid!). Various stages and hour of closure are planned for the week of the music festival - almost all of which coincide with our planned concerts. We are concerned not only for our musicians and church helpers, but that this will discourage audiences from coming to events, especially if they are not so familiar with Fordingbridge. We have therefore, regretfully, made the decision to postpone the festival. We hope to reschedule for the autumn, and will be having a meeting within the next week to consider dates. With thanks for the work put in so far, and huge apologies for the inconvenience this has caused. We do hope you will be able to join us for the rescheduled festival and will be in touch very soon with further information. **Please note that the Fordingbridge Choral Society concert on Saturday June 29th at 7pm will still be going ahead.** Hazel, Tim, & Christine (MMF committee)

**Fordingbridge Choral Society** presents **SHOWTIME** on **Saturday 29th June at 7pm** in St Mary's, Fordingbridge. This concert was to be part of the Midsummer Music Week and we're all disappointed about that postponement, but we've been working hard at our rehearsals and hope for a large and enthusiastic audience to share a feast of music from stage and screen. Tickets cost £12.50 in advance from Fordingbridge Bookshop and [ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral](http://ticketsource.co.uk/fordingbridgechoral), £15 at the door but FREE for 18s and under! Soprano soloist Alicia Wallace-Goulbourne, pianist Jack Campbell, Canzona Brass and FCS all look forward to your company and support.

**"EasyFundRaising"** We continue to benefit from cashback on High Street and Online purchases made by a few parishioners who have already signed up to "EasyFundRaising". However we can now also claim Gift Aid on these donations, provided we have a simple declaration on file. As we are all aware - every little helps. If you want to know more about this scheme, or are already a donor using EasyFundRaising but are unsure about your Gift Aid status, please talk to Melvyn Beynon (07711 469412). To quote Carnegie "Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves".

Please note the **church office** will be **closed** from **Monday 24th June** until **Monday 1st July**.

**ITEMS FOR PARTNERS** need to be sent to the Church Office (e-mail address below) by 5.00p.m. on **Tuesdays**. Please note that as the church office is shut the last week of June if you want anything included in **Partners for the start of July** it needs to be submitted by **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**. Please put 'Partners' in the e-mail subject line. Thank you, Zoe

## Reflection

This Sunday is Father's Day – something relatively new in our society in this country.

Whereas Mothering Sunday (often now called Mother's Day) has a clear tradition in this country linked to the people returning to their 'mother' church -the place they were baptised – and therefore often to reunite as families if working away, there is no such background to Father's Day. We appear to have just joined in a celebration of fathers which started 100 years or so ago in the USA.

If as a church we want to recognise Father's Day, what does this background mean to us? Whilst this day is an opportunity to engage with the society around us and the relationships they (perhaps some) will celebrate, we have to find a way to bring the good news about our God and the relationship he offers to us through Christ into this.

It seems to me that we can do so by reflecting on how God relationship with us as His adopted children, through Christ, is (or should be) so much greater and more complete than any earthly relationship.

The words of one song by Graham Kendrick which give us a glimpse of this :

O Father of the fatherless  
in whom all families are blessed,  
I love the way You father me.  
You gave me life, forgave the past;  
now in Your arms I'm safe at last –  
I love the way You father me.

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

# Trinity 3 16<sup>th</sup> June 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>16<sup>th</sup> June</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>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Informal Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>C of E Service</b>
<b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Memorial Service for the late Lawrence Barry</b>
<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Heather Cottage</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
<b>Fri 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Funeral for the late Alan Coles</b>
<b>Sat 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge Church Hall</b>	<b>Deanery Ideas Fair</b>
	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Hyde Church Centre</b>	<b>Fair Trade Event.</b>
	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Wedding</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Breamore</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion followed by study and lunch</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>Methodist Service</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Sung Evensong</b>

Readings for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Ps.133, II Corinthians 6: 1-13, Mark 4 : 35-end