

# PARTNERS

## weekly newsletter



### 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Trinity 7

Recently, the weather has been rather variable and not particularly good for the time of year. However, if you believe in a certain legend, then I am sure that you will be hoping that it will not rain tomorrow, - 15<sup>th</sup> July. This date is the feast day of St. Swithun, who is remembered for a British weather lore proverb.

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain, for forty days it will remain*

*St Swithun's day if thou be fair, for forty days 'twill rain nae mare*

Probably, very few people take this prediction literally, as there is definitely no statistical evidence to support the claim, so who was St. Swithun?

Saint Swithun was a Saxon bishop born in the kingdom of Wessex around 800 and educated in its capital, Winchester. He was Bishop of Winchester from 852 until his death in 863, and is included in the dedication of the Cathedral, the full dedication being 'Holy Trinity, St Peter, St Paul, & St Swithun. He was famous for charitable gifts and building churches, and emblems associated with him are raindrops and apples.

When St. Swithun died in 862, according to tradition, he was buried just outside the west door of the Old Minster, as he had requested, so that people could walk across his grave and rain would fall upon it. However, in 971, Swithun's remains were dug up and moved to a shrine in the cathedral by Bishop Ethelwold. The removal was also accompanied by ferocious and violent rainstorms that lasted 40 days and 40 nights and are said to indicate the saint's displeasure at being moved. This is probably the origin of the legend.

Sometimes, St. Swithun is depicted with a basket of apples. According to Charles Dillon, in his book *Superstitions and Folk Remedies*, apple growers hope for rain on St Swithun's Day and see the rain as the saints watering the orchards. Another traditional belief is that rain at this time is St Swithun blessing and christening the apples.

What do you hope for tomorrow on St. Swithun's Day?

### Let us pray

*Thank you, Lord, for the Saints that have gone before us and left their mark in legends and stories. Help us to learn from them and even when we feel that our faith is not strong, may we remember that you are always with us to help us thrive.*

**Amen**

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 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: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Trinity 7

### COLLECT:

Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as mustard-seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

### PSALM 24

1. The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,  
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
2. For he has founded it upon the seas  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
3. 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
4. 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;
5. 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
6. Such is the company of those who seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
7. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.
8. 'Who is the King of glory?'  
'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'
9. Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.
10. 'Who is this King of glory?'  
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

*The Christians at Ephesus are reminded that they have been adopted as God's children through what Christ has done, and given God's Spirit so that they are empowered to live to God's glory.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ<sup>4</sup> before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.<sup>5</sup> God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,<sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;<sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people to the praise of his glory.

*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 6:14-29*

*The death of John the Baptist.*

King Herod heard about Jesus, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago." But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, the man I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!" For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in

prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him. Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" "The head of John the Baptist," she answered. At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

*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:**

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may live:  
may we so receive within ourselves  
the power of his death and passion  
that, in his saving cup,  
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**AMEN**

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**LUKE out and about: Monday** - meeting with Vicky in the morning, meeting with Ruth in the afternoon followed by a meeting with Julie. **Tuesday** -day off.

**Wednesday** - morning Holy Communion at SMF, followed by meeting at church office and then burial of ashes in the afternoon at Hyde. **Thursday** - team meeting at 9am and in the afternoon Year 6 leavers event at Hyde. **Friday** afternoon -Pastoral team meeting **Saturday** -Fordingbridge Festival all day

**CARE HOME VISITS.** On **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July** 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 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 Fordingbridge Care Home at 10.50am and/or at Allenbrook at 2.20pm. Please come and join us if you can, as last month we were short of singers. It is 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 16<sup>th</sup> July** 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.

**Pop-up Café:** The Church family of Hale and Woodgreen invite you to our **10am service to celebrate ‘God’s Acre on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> July** at St Mary’s Church, Hale. **WHY?** We will be opening our popular **Pop-up café** again. The café will be open after the service from **11.30am to 4pm**. Everyone is invited to join us in the wonderful setting of St Mary’s Church to enjoy bacon butties and home-made cakes, together with Fair Trade tea and coffee. All donations will go towards the roof appeal for the Church. Although we are well on way, with just over half the money for meeting our target of £50,000 we do still need to continue to fund raise, so we can get the repair work completed before the Winter .

**TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School)** will get together again on Wednesday 24 July at 10.30am at 15 Provost Street, to watch “The Chosen” together. This week we are continuing Series 3 Episode 8. Refreshments. All welcome. Further details from Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

**Hyde Band Concert in Hyde Church** (in aid of church and band funds) **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**. Easy listening and exciting new music. Tickets £10 to include a glass of wine or soft drink available from AVCM Shop, The Potting Shed or on the door.

**Pimm’s, Hymns, Proms and Cream Teas** - All are welcome to spend a lovely Summer afternoon in the delightful village hall garden of Woodgreen, why not bring your picnic and a seat? **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm**-Meraki Brass Band will play some of our favourite hymns, then after Cream Teas, we will hear some ‘proms’ style music from them. Flags welcome!! Tickets are £10 and include a glass of Pimm’s/soft drink and your Cream Tea. This will be part of our fund raising for St Boniface Church, Woodgreen. There is ample parking behind the Village Hall, if wet we will be inside. Tickets available from the Woodgreen Village shop, Chris Calder 07979695497 or Revd Ruth 07855210769.

**The PARISH MISSION MATTERS GROUP (PMMG) plan to meet on Monday 29 July at 7pm in Godshill**. This gathering is open to all with a passion for Mission of any kind. We are delighted that Rev Luke has kindly agreed to take the Chair. Further details from Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

**Avon Valley Community matters.** After our very successful day at Blashford Lake, we are already planning our next Families Together picnics for the school holidays. We will be in **The Glebe Field on the 31<sup>st</sup> July**, our special activity will be clay, **14<sup>th</sup> August** will see us at **Woodgreen Common**, our special activity will be printing using different techniques, and the **28<sup>th</sup> August** will find us at **Breamore** where we will try our hands at Willow work. We will try to ensure there is an age appropriate technique at each. There will be games and other games and sports activities at each. We will need help at each of the picnics. This could be anything from keeping an eye on the families, joining in if necessary so that all the children feel included, someone 'on the door' to take a register of who has come along, answer questions and generally helping to make and distribute all the picnic bags. Last year was a lot of fun and altogether we fed over 300 people at the picnics. Please do let me know if you want to help, the date(s) you can do and any particular way of helping that you would like. Please do contact me at [irenecanton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:irenecanton@hotmail.co.uk)

**Brew Can do it!!** I am hosting an afternoon tea event to raise money for Breast Cancer. It will be on **Saturday August 3rd** at the rectory (71 Church Street) starting at 3pm and finishing around 5pm. There will be wonderful cakes and other goodies to eat. Competitions and a raffle. Also good company and the chance to support anyone you may know who has been touched by breast cancer. Those who come will be asked for a donation for breast cancer. Thankyou Please come along, it will be a very pleasant afternoon. Sarah

**Giving notices at the end of a service in St Mary's Fordingbridge.** Our notice section can be quite long. If you wish to deliver a notice please speak to the sidesperson who is responsible for the notices at the service and agree whether they or you deliver it. Whatever the decision, the notice needs to be as short as possible and we suggest it is written down to guide the person delivering it.

A huge **thank you** to everyone who sponsored **Margaret and Annette's** 10k run at Exbury Gardens in aid of St Mary's Fordingbridge, we have raised £1012 so far, this figure is before the final online total and gift aid have been added. We are thrilled at how much money has been raised, with love MW&AY

**OPEN DOORS LEAFLETS & MAGAZINES for July and August are here!** Please pick up your copy from any of the churches in our Parish. The persecuted church needs our prayers. Just as we pray for our families and friends, please pray too for these more distant members of the church family, and learn about the situations they face.

**Recycling Printer Ink Cartridges – raise money for the AVC**

We have now registered the (whole) Parish of Fordingbridge with **Recycle4Charity**. This is a website which allows you to send in your empty printer cartridges (free) to raise funds for the Avon Valley Churches. As much as £2 for every cartridge! You can follow the link: <http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register/182763> to easily check which cartridges qualify (most typical domestic ink cartridges are

welcomed, but not laser/toner cartridges), how much they will generate, and request a free postage label, or even register for an account to make it even easier next time. **This scheme costs you nothing, is very simple to use, and “saves the planet”!** We are also hoping to put the link on the AVC website. If you need any further information, please contact Melvyn Beynon (07711 469412).

## Reflection

Janet and I have been reflecting a great deal over the last few days having just celebrated 60 years of marriage. It is hard for us to believe how fortunate we have been. Our grandchildren are finding boy and girl friends, and the majority of the people at our party were young, and of course we were the oldest pair there. We are both determined to try not to think of ourselves as old, and mixing with young people helps. We joke that we don't feel that much different in our minds than we did in 1964 but we now have the advantage of 60 years of experience together, which has, by and large been fun and that is the way we hope to carry on, God willing.

Church has played a large part in our lives, we were both active church members before our wedding, Janet at Damerham and me at Fordingbridge, both ringing bells and singing in the choir. I have struggled more with my faith at times than Janet, but she sets me such a good example, and the older I get, my doubts are pushed further and further away. I wonder if any of you agree, that knowing and watching people who are devout, quiet, sincere, believers, who demonstrate their faith by doing good things to help other people, is more likely to cement my faith firmly than anything else.

Some of you may be lucky enough to have known a lady named Grace Coundley, if you are one of those you will know what I trying to say. She was a local living saint who set exactly the kind of example I mean, riding her bike around to visit people in need and quietly doing enormous amounts of good. She was well known and respected by many people in the town who had never set foot in church.

Having said all that Luke is planning to run Alpha courses soon. I have never tried anything like that, and I really do struggle with the concept of an organised attempt to influence my belief or being encouraged to talk about it with other people. Perhaps I should try attending one, but I might need persuasion.

Nigel Spratt

**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 7 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>9.15am</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 Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Hyde</b>	<b>Informal Service</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>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.15am</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	<b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> July</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>Morning Service</b>
	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>	<b>C of E Service</b>

Readings for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July : Ps. 89:20.37, Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56