

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



8th September 2024 - Trinity 15

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Today is the great festival of the church which honours the birth of the Mother of our Lord . It is celebrated in both the Eastern and Western Churches. It falls nine months after the feast day of the Conception of Mary, and the feast day offers to us all, the preparation by God of his people to receive their Lord and Saviour. It puts “heaven in ordinary” and shows that mortal flesh can be the bearer of Christ in the world.



We have three St. Mary's Churches in our new parish of the Avon Valley - Fordingbridge , Breamore and Hale. At Fordingbridge, there used to be a three day festival, “The Fordingbridge Fair”, and was last held in about the late



1950's. I remember that my Dad won me a gold fish, from a stall outside where the clock now is in Church Square. Today we no longer have a festival like this, but that does not stop our celebrations. We have so much to give thanks for and celebrate. So as today, the actual feast day ,let's give thanks for all that

God does for us, and to give thanks too for his Son, Jesus Christ.

With lots of love, and celebrating

Ian Newman

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: 8th September 2024

Trinity 15

COLLECT:

Lord God,
defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 125

- 1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- 2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem,
so the Lord stands round about his people,
from this time forth for evermore.
- 3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway
over the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are true of heart.
- 5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways
the Lord shall take away with the evildoers;
but let there be peace upon Israel.

A Reading from the Letter of James

James 2:1-17

Christians are encouraged to treat all people the same, rich or poor, and reminded that faith without works is dead..

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen,

my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?⁸ You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ¹¹For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement. ¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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 7:24-37

Jesus has a difficult conversation, and heals a deaf man..

²⁴ From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁸ But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' ²⁹ Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. ³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay

his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

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:

Keep, O Lord, your Church,
with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Circle Dancing ! Earlier in the year Michaelmas enjoyed a session of this gentle but sociable dancing with Peggy Jackson. She is organising another session on **Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm** in **St Mary's Church** Fordingbridge and it is **OPEN TO ALL**. Do please come and join us as we share the joy! You may think you can't dance but you'll be surprised! Any queries ring Viv 01725 512267/Helen 01425 655462.

Hyde Mothers' Union next meeting will be at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, September 10th** in Hyde Church. It is our annual Membership Service to which all are welcome. Please come and support our curate Vicky Semple who is to be enrolled as a new member.

Last Night of the Proms - Saturday 14th September at 7pm at the Town Hall Fordingbridge. Tickets £15 from Caxton Décor (26-30 Salisbury St SP6 1AF)

Care Home Visits - On **Monday 16 September** 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 of 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, it is a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff at both homes. Thank you. Julie Francis (Anna Chaplain)

EYE WITNESS: STORIES FROM ISRAEL - PALESTINE. 7.15pm Monday 16 September at Avonway. The Dean of Salisbury, Nick Papadopoulos, shares his experience of three months sabbatical leave in East Jerusalem earlier this year with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme monitoring human rights, visiting holy sites and speaking to people from many different organisations, describing it as 'overwhelming'.

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 17th September** 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.

Have you yet to come to a free film night at FB town hall? There will be 3 more Free Film Nights in 2024: 7.30 for 8pm and finishing about 9.30pm on Saturdays 21 September, 12 October, and 16 November screened under the Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District banner. We have permission to show Episodes from "The Chosen" so long as we do not charge! Free refreshments are available too. With millions of people around the world viewing this authentic series of films about Jesus of Nazareth online, we have the chance of seeing it on the Big Screen right here in Fordingbridge. There are plans for it to be translated (dubbed or sub-titled) into 600 heart languages! We look forward to welcoming back all those who come regularly, and those who want to come and see what is going on. Pat Bloomfield

St Mary's Fordingbridge – Giving Sunday - We invite as many people as possible to attend the services on **Sunday 22nd September** as Luke talks to us about the importance of our giving to the church to support our parish and the mission of our parish priest. We are asking everyone who considers St Mary's Fordingbridge to be the church they regularly attend or support to consider their current giving and help us (if possible) to put our finances into a more sustainable place.

Tickets for the Quiz night with two course hot meal on Saturday 28 September, 6pm for 6.30pm, in St Mary's Church Hall, Fordingbridge **will be available from 11 September** from sarah.perrelle@hotmail.co.uk for £15 each. BYO drink, glasses provided. Raffle. Questionmaster Matthew Cakebread will be helping to raise funds for Cap UK, The Local Foodbank, and Opportunity International UK. Come as a Team of 6-8 people, or if on your own, join a team when you arrive. It should be a great evening! Perhaps some of our churches could get a table or two together?

Christmas Fayre at St Mary's Fordingbridge on Saturday 23rd November – Offers of help to run a stall are coming in slowly, but we need more please. Our fundraising must continue! If you or your church organisation can help please can you let us know that you are willing to be involved by the end of August either by email or phone or face to face Helen Tague (01425 655462; thetagues@fordingbridge.com)

or Judith Dowsett (01425 650335; j.dowsett7@btinternet.com). Thank you.

FAIR TRADERS NEEDED for St Mary's FB! Many of us have been grateful in the past to have had the opportunity once a month to have a Fair Trade Stall in the church. It has helped producers to get fair payment for their hard work, and helped them get out of poverty. Thank you to Di Evans, who has until recently been willing to take Fair Trade orders, but now she is no longer able to continue. We are looking for one or two people, who are passionate about Fair Trade, and want to grow a following in St Mary's. There is a Fairtraders Group based on AVC and the local area, where we exchange ideas and give support at one another's events. etc. Please contact Gwenda Moore 01425 650104 to discuss further.

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”! There is also a box in St. Mary's, Fordingbridge to collect cartridges if you prefer to use that. If our other churches would like to organise a box as well, this could be very useful. We are arranging to put the link on the AVC website. We have already raised over £30 in August from cartridges left in the box.

If you need any further information, please contact Melvyn Beynon (07711 469412).

The Evening of 60's music was a great success with Michael Ireland playing many 60's guitar instrumentals and joining the Salisbury band “Legacy Sound” in the second half with some solid 60's music, with Bobby Kenchington on lead vocals leading them with his jovial style and bounding energy, Wow! What an evening! **In excess of £600** was raised to add to Mark Ward's 2024 Fund raising appeal. Many thanks from Mike Ireland

We are seeking a co-ordinator - for 2.5 hours a week regularly, time by negotiation, for a brain injured man living independently in Fordingbridge. He needs help in organising, planning and executing his activities. The time will be split between on site assistance and phone/email/text.

He has been assessed by neuro/rehab and is working with an OT who, alongside his parents, will help with an induction. You will need experience with special needs/health/psychology/education or similar.

The qualities of kindness, patience, clarity and reliability are important. Pay will be on a self employed basis, dependent on experience, in the region of £18 an hour with 3 weeks holiday allowance. For further details please e mail cjptners@btinternet.com giving brief details of your experience.

Reflection

I was taking my father to a Foresters meeting, shortly before he died, along the back road from Verwood on a spring evening, and he produced one of his many statements that I have remembered fondly. - 'How can anyone say they are bored when there are so many things to see if you take the trouble to look?'

I wonder how many of you, like me, remember a poem by W.H. Davies. 'Leisure' – What is this life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare.... etc. Google it if you don't know it, and while you are at it, look up W.H. Davis, a very interesting character. His book 'Auto-biography of a Super Tramp' is well worth a read and the title gives you a clue about him.

I am mystified when watching huge spectacular events on the TV, to see that most of the spectators are looking at it through their phones, instead of actually watching it. To my mind they could be experiencing the spectacle better if they put their phones away and watched it properly, and then enjoyed a much better record of it on play back when they got home!

My daughter Emma has just had a bucket list holiday in Florence and was, of course overwhelmed by the experience. She came home with lots of lovely photos, many of them of the Madonna and Child taken in galleries and churches. On her return she arranged all the representations she had seen of baby Jesus. Here are a few of them. The whole collection numbers about 40, all weird.



You can see the very different and strange ways that the artists have tried to imagine what Jesus looked like as a baby! It makes you wonder if they had ever seen one! Of course, none of us knows what He or His Father - God looks like, but I am fairly sure that Jesus looked nothing like those pictures. We believe that Christ was made in God's image, and that is as far as we can go.

I guess my human Father knows the answer now. I have so many things I wish I had asked him when he was still here. Even if it was possible, I would not want to ask him to betray the mystery of faith.

Nigel Spratt

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

Trinity 15

8th September 2024

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

Sunday	8.15 am	Hyde	Holy Communion (BCP)
	9.15 am	Hyde	Breakfast
8th Sept	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Hyde	Harvest Festival (All Age Worship)
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	11.45 am	Fordingbridge	Baptism
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Fri 13th	11.00 am	Hyde	The funeral for the late Fiona Leith
Sat 14th	12.00 noon	Breamore	Wedding
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
15th Sept	10.00 am	Breamore	Matins
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hale	Morning Service
	10.00 am	Hyde	Morning Service
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	C of E Service

Readings for Sunday 15th September : Ps. 19, James 3: 1-12 Mark 8 27-end