

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



15th September 2024 - Trinity 16

Abundant life?

In John 10v10 Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly," and I feel that this verse should be an encouragement to us today.

Firstly, be encouraged that God wants to bless you; he came to give you life, abundant life. Indeed, the Christian life is a blessed life; we receive from Christ his love, his grace, his forgiveness and the promise of life forevermore. Isn't that wonderful? We may experience trouble, we may have aches and pains, or even serious illness, but God is with us, his Spirit is within us, and we are loved, now and for evermore. Jesus came to give us life, abundant life.

But secondly, let us share that promise of abundant life with others. There are many people across the Avon Valley who will not be worshipping with us this Sunday; but Jesus came for them as well, and he longs to give them life, abundant life. And his means or reaching out to them is...us! You and me. He is sending us out into the world to bring his light, his truth and his love to those around us. May we do so.

That's why we are re-launching the monthly all-sorts service at Fordingbridge in October, and re-starting the Sunday school; and it's also why we are running the Alpha course. These things are designed to help us to draw new people, from the community, into the Church and, more importantly, into a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

So, can I ask you please to pray for our churches? Please pray for the services this week and in the coming weeks; pray for the all-sorts relaunch and pray for Alpha. May God use all that we do to draw others into his presence and to enable them to receive the great gift that Jesus came to give: life, abundant life.

With love in Him, Luke.

Luke Wickings. Rector.

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: 15th September 2024

Trinity 16

COLLECT:

Lord of creation,
your glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 19:1-6

1. The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
2. One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
3. They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
4. Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world.
5. In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
6. It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

A Reading from the Letter of James

James 3:1-12

Christians are encouraged to be careful how they speak, for words can be a curse as well as a blessing.

¹ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the

whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue -a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 8:27-38

Peter makes his great confession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus warns his followers that his way of being the Messiah will involve suffering, and they must be prepared to share the discipline of taking up the cross.

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' ²⁸ And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' ²⁹ Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and

follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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:

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Luke out and about: Monday - 10-12 meeting with Vicky, lunchtime meeting at church office, 4-6pm Alpha training followed by the Talk at 7.15pm by the Dean of Salisbury. **Tuesday - Thursday**—Course in Woking, **Friday** Day off apart from 2.30pm Pastoral team meeting. **Saturday:** 2.30-4.30pm - Umoja Trustee meeting

Colin Ritchie -Colin sadly passed away peacefully on Saturday 31st August in the nursing home where he had lived since 2021. As a previous Churchwarden, he had great affection for St. Mary's Fordingbridge and served for many years.

His funeral will be held on **Tuesday 1st October at 12:00 noon** at St. Mary's Fordingbridge, where we will welcome everyone. This will be followed by refreshments. To remember Colin, please wear smart dress with some colour.

We ask family flowers only, however donations for local Rotary Community Charities via I.N. Newman in Fordingbridge. As a family we would like to thank everyone for their support, prayers, thoughts and kind words. Shirley, Claire and Fiona x

As we all continue to grieve Gary's loss let us also be inspired by him. Not all of us got the wonderful 'be more **Gary**' stickers from Winchester. With permission, we have had the design made into more permanent badges. If you'd like to, please take one from the welcome table by all of the churchs' doors.

This **Fairtrade Fortnight (9th –22nd September)** you could help protect the livelihoods of the women in North East India who store and share the seeds from the best of their crops. It's likely this will become illegal if the imminent trade deal with the UK goes ahead. UPOV91 seed laws is an obscure mechanism that the UK will pressure India to adopt. To find out more and sign the petition go to the Transform Trade website <https://www.transform-trade.org> Beverly Judd

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.

Michaelmas- just a reminder that **Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm** is our **AGM** in the Fordingbridge Church Hall. It doesn't take long so we shall also be welcoming auctioneer Sarah Delves whose talk will follow. Any queries ring Helen on 01425 655462 or Viv on 01725 512267.

If you would like to donate food (for **Fordingbridge Foodbank**) to our Harvest Festival, please bring it to **St Boniface** on **Saturday 21st September**, between 9 - 12.00, when we will be decorating the church, or with you if you are attending the service. Thank You

THE NEXT FREE FILM NIGHT SHOWING 'THE CHOSEN' is on Saturday 21 September. Doors open at 7.30pm. Pick up your (free) tea, coffee or fruit juice and a savoury or sweet snack, as you come in. Do you sometimes wonder how the crowds who came to watch and listen to Jesus got to know when he was going to preach, and where? This Episode is called "Invitations" and shows a likely way, as well as word of mouth, this might have happened. Why not come with friends: there is time to chat with them before and after the film. Pat Bloomfield

Giving Sunday. - Dear friends, on **Sunday 22 September** I have proposed that we have a Giving Sunday, and I have chosen the Bible readings accordingly. The Bible teaches us the importance of giving, and indeed the Church can only do the work that God calls us to do if we, God's people, give generously. So, on Sunday 22nd we will be thinking about giving and encouraging each other to review our personal giving to God's Church and to consider, under God, if it is right for us to increase that amount

that we give. I am therefore adding this notice to Partners to forewarn us, and to give us the chance to prayerfully prepare. Now, as I'm sure you know, 2 Corinthians 9v7 says that "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

So, can I ask you to prayerfully reflect upon your giving and, on 22 Sept, there will be pledge forms available in every Church to enable us to respond as seems right to each of us. Thank you all for your giving, for your service, and for your fellowship in God's Church. **Luke** (Rector of the Avon Valley Churches).

Harvest, Pie & Pints(Harvest Supper) in Woodgreen Village Hall on **Sunday 22nd September from 6.30pm-9pm** Tickets £15, **on sale from 1st Sept** from Woodgreen Shop or Lynda Warne 07799542707 or Chris Calder 07979695497 or Rev Ruth Crosland 07855210769, Tickets will include a two-course hot supper and a drink, live music and a spectacular Raffle! All welcome.... In aid of St Boniface Church repairs to Bellcote & roof.

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?

The Parish Mission Matters Group (PMMG) plan to meet on Monday 4 October at 7pm in Godshill. Our Rector chairs the meeting, and this gathering is open to all from across the Parish, with a passion for Mission of any kind. Further details from Pat Bloomfield 01425 837735.

Breamore Harvest Festival and Lunch - On Sunday 6th October, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival at the Morning Service at 10am. As usual, we will welcome any contributions of non-perishable items, which will then be donated to the Trussell Trust foodbank. As is our custom at this event, the Harvest Lunch will follow the service at 12noon in the Hulse Hall, where coffee will be available between the service and lunch. Everyone is welcome – there is no charge but you can make a donation if you wish - so please bring family and friends to enjoy this time together. It would be helpful for catering to know numbers in advance if possible, so please call 07710288361 or email mary.awdford@btopenworld.com also advising of any dietary requirements. However, we always have plenty of food so just come along if you can. Mary Melbourne (LLM and Anna Chaplain)

Harvest Gifts, St Mary's Fordingbridge 6th October - Please bring your Harvest gifts for Ringwood & Fordingbridge Foodbank to any of the services (8:15am, 10am or Six O'Clock) on Sunday 6th October. Donations of tins, packets, dried foods and long-life items (in date) will be very much appreciated at this time.

At the 10am Harvest Allsorts, Janet Newman's special flower/food barrow will be there for gifts. Let's try to make it a bumper year for Harvest contributions to the Foodbank! Thank you.

Christmas Fayre at St Mary's Fordingbridge on Saturday 23rd November

– Thank you for the offers to help run a stall. It's not too late to offer to be there on the day and help with selling and setting up etc. We will be asking for contributions of bottles, toiletries, books, jigsaws, unused gifts and so on in a little while so do keep an eye out for where to take them. If you want any other information on items to contribute or can offer to help please contact Helen Tague (01425 655462; thetagues@fordingbridge.com) or Judith Dowsett (01425 650335; j.dowsett7@btinternet.com). Thank you.

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

What a sporting year 2024 has been. In the spring the European Football Championships commenced with many highly competitive games being played and with England giving a good account of themselves. The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships followed during the early summer, which is popular with both players and spectators alike. Wimbledon produces very much the finest from its carefully manicured lawns and indeed has nurtured many new players over the years, returning year after year.

This year has been a bonus with the Olympics and Paralympics. The Olympics return every four years when every Country is invited to compete in an endless program of sport and athletics, A chance for every enthusiast to compete against the world's best and try to win a gold, silver or bronze medal for themselves. This year France has taken the helm and what a fine job they have done. The facilities looked amazing and the television coverage was second to none. Finally we have the cricket with England competing against Sri Lanka, and winning the series. England producing some interesting fresh players. I'm sure we will see more of these new players in the future.

Michael Ireland

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 16

15th September 2024

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

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
Mon 16th	11.00 am	Fordingbridge	The funeral of the late Rosie Winter
Tues 17th	12.00 noon	Fordingbridge	The funeral of the late Gretton Nelson
Wed 18th	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Morning Prayer
		Heather Cottage	Bible Study
Sunday	8.15 am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion (BCP)
22nd Sept	10.00 am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Sung Communion
	10.00 am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Woodgreen	Morning Prayer
	10.45 am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	6.00 pm	Fordingbridge	Sung Evensong

Readings for Sunday 22nd September : Ps 39, 2 Corinthians 9:1-14, Matthew 6:19-24