

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



22nd September 2024 - Trinity 17 - Giving Sunday

As we approach the time of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' within the Benefice the first of our Harvest Thanksgiving Services begins this Sunday at St Boniface Church, Woodgreen. Others are not far ahead...

Some of us will sing the words of a traditional hymn 'Come ye thankful people, come' which includes the line **All is safely gathered in**. In this context of course, the words refer to the crops which we hope are gathered in by the farmers. But I would like us to use those words to consider who we might safely gather in, in our churches. Do we really gather safely people in? Historically, and sadly currently, churches have not been a safe space for many people, we are all too aware of the harm caused by some people to others in the church.

It's no accident, I think, that part of our church buildings is called the Sanctuary, usually the part closest to the altar.

As Christians we are called to welcome and **gather all people** into our churches, whoever they may be providing them with a safe place, a sanctuary from the world. Something that we all need sometimes...

There's a great fun children's worship song called '**we are shaped for serving God**'

A thought for us as we consider who we might accept into our sanctuaries, recognising that as the Psalmist says we are all wonderfully and fearfully made. How could we humans be any different, being made in God's image?

The Gospel message is one of God's love being freely given to us all, whatever shape, size, age, background, character we may be.

So, next Sunday, as we meet for our Benefice wide Service let's celebrate our diversity and the diversity of others, not seeking to change others but to offer respect and sanctuary to all.

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

Rev'd Ruth Crosland

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: 22nd September 2024

Trinity 17

COLLECT:

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 39

- 1 I said, 'I will keep watch over my ways,
so that I offend not with my tongue.
- 2 'I will guard my mouth with a muzzle,
while the wicked are in my sight.'
- 3 So I held my tongue and said nothing;
I kept silent but to no avail.
- 4 My distress increased, my heart grew hot within me;
while I mused, the fire was kindled
and I spoke out with my tongue:
- 5 'Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days,
that I may know how short my time is.
- 6 'You have made my days but a handsbreadth,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight;
truly, even those who stand upright are but a breath.
- 7 'We walk about like a shadow
and in vain we are in turmoil;
we heap up riches and cannot tell who will gather them.
- 8 'And now, what is my hope?
Truly my hope is even in you.
- 9 'Deliver me from all my transgressions
and do not make me the taunt of the fool.'
- 10 I fell silent and did not open my mouth,
for surely it was your doing.

- 11 Take away your plague from me;
I am consumed by the blows of your hand.
- 12 With rebukes for sin you punish us;
like a moth you consume our beauty;
truly, everyone is but a breath.
- 13 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;
hold not your peace at my tears.
- 14 For I am but a stranger with you,
a wayfarer, as all my forebears were.
- 15 Turn your gaze from me, that I may be glad again,
before I go my way and am no more.

A Reading from the book of Corinthians

II Corinthians 9: 1-14

Now it is not necessary for me to write to you about the ministry to the saints,² for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them.³ But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be;⁴ otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking.⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you, and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.⁹ As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.’¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you.

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 *Matthew*

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Matthew 6: 19-24

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²²‘The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; ²³but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!’ ²⁴‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

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, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Luke out and about: Monday - 10-12 meeting with Vicky, 3pm - Allsorts planning Baptism meeting at 4pm **Tuesday** - 12.30pm Church office, 7pm Sunday School leaders' meeting. **Wednesday** - Julian Sims at 10.00am followed by Alpha training at 3pm and churches together AGM in the evening. **Thursday** - 9.00am team zoom meeting **Friday** - Day off **Saturday:** Quiz night in the evening. **Sunday** - 10.00am in Fordingbridge and 11.45am Baptism

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.

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

Free Film Night at FB Townhall showing 'The Chosen' on Saturday 21 September. Pick up your (free) tea, coffee or fruit juice and a savoury or sweet snack, as you come in. This Episode is called "Invitations" and is a shorter one than some. There will be time to chat about the film, and enjoy the refreshments before and after it. Come along and bring a friend! **Doors open at 7.30pm.**

Pat Bloomfield

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.

Macmillan coffee morning on Wednesday 25th September at 10.30am at 6 Willow Ave, Fordingbridge SP6 1LH. Please come and eat cakes and support this worthy cause. Thanks Judy White

T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) will be meeting on **Wednesday 25 September 10.30-12.15pm** at 15 Provost Street. For anyone who would like to join a small group who are watching an Episode of "The Chosen", talk about it, and share a cuppa together. All welcome. Want to know more? Pat B 01425 83773

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 or 07780 571946 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?

Sunday 29th September - please note this is a United service and the only service that day and will be held at St Mary's Fordingbridge at 10.00am - all are most welcome

Alpha course -1st October at Fordingbridge at 2.30pm in the church hall and **3rd October at Hyde at 3pm** in the church rooms. All are invited and everyone is most welcome from whichever church you attend. The first session's title is "Who is Jesus" and we will be looking at the evidence for Jesus, for his divinity and for our salvation in turn. Thanks Luke

Avon Valley Men's Fellowship - Our next meeting of the AVMF group will be on **Wednesday 2nd October** at the Old Beams pub, Ibsley. We start to gather at 6:30pm, taking our seats at 7pm for a one course supper, after which we are entertained by a speaker. The cost of the evening is £17. For this supper we will be welcoming Ashley Francis for a talk about his travel adventures in 1990. Telling the story of piloting a light aircraft over Southern Africa and then climbing a mountain in the Namibian desert. If you would like to join our friendly group for what promises to be a fascinating talk, please contact Stephen Darke (phone 01425 656988 or e-mail: darkefamily@btinternet.com).

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.

Harvest Festival Lunch, Fordingbridge, Sunday October 6th, 12pm for 12.30pm. We are having a harvest lunch in the Church Hall. To book tickets please contact Zoe at the church office: (office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) 01425 653163. When booking please give any dietary information (Vegan, Vegetarian, Gluten Free, Dairy Free). Tickets are £10 (£5 under 13) and there will be a small raffle. Can you offer a raffle prize or a pudding to feed about 8 people? If so please email mark@fordingbridge.com Please book by 12 noon on **Wednesday 2nd October** (payment on the day please in cash). **The Parish Mission Matters Group (PMMG) plan to meet on Monday 7 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.

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

Connections

As we herald the arrival of Autumn with its myriads of wonderful hues, we reflect on the joy that this summer has brought us, especially at St Mary's church, Hale. We have had six weddings to date and worked with six wonderful couples leading up to their special day. Without exception there have been many happy faces, lots of smiles, loads of photo opportunities and a mixture of weather to contend with. Everyone is still smiling at the end of the service. My favourite moment is the throwing of the confetti. You get such a sense of togetherness and quite often the best image for the photo album as well.

The weather theme extended to the AVCM picnics this year. All 3 had very different weather from high temperatures at the Rectory, to persistent rain at Woodgreen and back to more seasonal, warm weather at Breamore school. Guess what? The children and therefore the parents/Grandparents were smiling at each unique event.

For many of us being connected in our community is very important. Meeting new people from outside our immediate area adds to the richness of our lives. As we network and make connections, whether through weddings or picnics, church or non-church activities, having thriving networks will make us happy.

So, whatever the weather, make connections, stay connected,

Lynda Warne

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 17

22nd September 2024

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

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
Fri 27th	10.30am	Woodgreen	Fairtrade Community Coffee morning
	12.00 noon	Woodgreen Hall	CAMEO lunch
Sunday	10.00 am	Fordingbridge	Benefice Wide Eucharist Service
29th Sept	11.45 am	Fordingbridge	Baptism

Readings for Sunday 29th September : Ps 103: 19-end , Hebrews 1:5-end, John 1:47-end