

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



22nd June 2025 - Trinity One

Fools, Scum, and Servants

Next weekend, Ruth and I will be ordained as priests, and Alex will be ordained deacon. It's a joyful, solemn, exciting, and slightly overwhelming moment. What better way to prepare than with Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 4, where he describes the apostles as "*fools for Christ*" and even "*the scum of the earth*"?

Not exactly the glamorous life - but deeply true to the heart of the Gospel.

Because Christian life, for all of us, is a calling to serve. To follow Jesus downwards—not towards power or prestige, but towards humility, love, and costly grace. Whether we're ordained or not, every Christian is called to embody the foolishness of the cross in a world that often prizes success and status.

Ordination doesn't change that - it simply sharpens the focus. As priests and deacons, we are set apart to help equip the whole people of God for that shared life of service. To stand at the altar, to proclaim God's Word, to baptise, marry, anoint, and bury - not to be the 'professionals', but to be reminders of the Gospel we all live by.

So yes - we're stepping into a life of joyful foolishness. The kind that trusts God can use bread and wine, broken words, and imperfect people. And yes, sometimes we may feel like "*the scum of the earth*" but if that's what it takes to serve Christ and his people, then we're all in.

Thank you for your prayers, and thank you for walking this way with us. It's an honour to serve together. I still have a few tickets left for the priesting service at Winchester Cathedral at 6pm in the 28th. If you would like one please email me. revvictoriasemple@gmail.com

With love in Christ,
Rev'd Vicky

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: 22nd June 2025

Trinity One

COLLECT:

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

AMEN.

PSALM 42

1. As the deer longs for the water brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.
2. My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God;
when shall I come before the presence of God?
3. My tears have been my bread day and night,
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
4. Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul:
how I went with the multitude
and led the procession to the house of God,
5. With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,
among those who kept holy day.
6. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,
and why are you so disquieted within me?
7. O put your trust in God;
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
8. My soul is heavy within me;
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.
9. Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls;
all your breakers and waves have gone over me.

10. The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime;
through the night his song will be with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
11. I say to God my rock,
'Why have you forgotten me?
and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?'
12. As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me;
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
13. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?
and why are you so disquieted within me
14. O put your trust in God;
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet sent to a rebellious people

¹I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name.²I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;³a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks;⁴who sit inside tombs and spend the night in secret places; who eat the flesh of pigs, with broth of abominable things in their vessels;⁵who say, "Keep to yourself; do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long.⁶See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps⁷their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions.⁸Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake and not destroy them all.⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

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 Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus heals the Gerasene possessed by demons.

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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:

Eternal Father,

we thank you for nourishing us

with these heavenly gifts:

may our communion strengthen us in faith,

build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

Luke out and about: Monday : 10am-12 Meeting with Vicky, **Tuesday:** 12.30pm church office **Wednesday** 5.30pm Governor's committee meeting **Thursday:** 9.00am Zoom staff meeting Hyde **Friday** Day off **Saturday** 6pm Winchester Cathedral for ordination of Ruth and Vicky **Sunday** 10.00am Winchester Cathedral for ordination of Alex.

T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) at 10.30am on Wed 25 June at The Rectory, Please join us to watch **the Roundtable Discussion** (where the Film Director, Dallas Jenkins, a Roman Catholic theologian, a Presbyterian theologian and a Jewish Rabbi discuss the last Episode) All welcome. Refreshments. No charge. Contact Pat B 837735 or Sarah W 07403 214208.

Ordination weekend! The weekend of the **28th and 29th June** is a big one for our parish. On **Saturday 28th June at 6pm** the Revd Ruth Crosland and Revd Vicky Semple will both be ordained Priests, and on **Sunday 29th June at 10am** Alex Sains will be ordained Deacon. You are all welcome to attend either or both services. Please let Alex know if you are able to offer a lift or need a lift on the Sunday, and she will try to sort car-sharing. Her email is alexsains03@gmail.com and her number is 07816225030. Vicky will be celebrating her first communion on Wednesday 2 July at 10.00am in Fordingbridge. Followed with coffee and cake All are welcome. Ruth will be celebrating her **first** Holy Communion on **Sunday 29th June at St Boniface Church, Woodgreen** at 10am. All are very welcome, afterwards there will be a bring and share lunch in Woodgreen Village Hall, drinks will be provided, offers of food & numbers are being Co-ordinated by Lynda Warne, email lynda.warne@hotmail.co.uk or mobile 07799 542707 by **June 22nd** please!

Hyde Church Sunday 29th June - Tent Service. Following the popular Frogham Fair on Saturday 28th July when MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) will be bringing an airplane and flight simulator to the Church Stall on Harry's Field, we will be holding our annual Tent Service for the village the next day. The Service is a 'Songs of Praise' at 10a.m. With Hyde Band and our choir leading the singing, in the large marquee left up especially for us. A representative for MAF will be speaking and the collection will be in aid of their charity. All are welcome to join our praise and singing!

Fundraising Concert - The amazing **Bournemouth Male Voice Choir** has been booked to perform for us on **Saturday, 5th July, at 7:30pm** in St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge, to help raise funds towards the new automatic accessibility doors. Tickets will be on sale shortly, at £15, to include wine and other refreshments at the interval. Save the Date – and watch this space!

Open Gardens 2025 12th and 13th July - We are running our Open Gardens again this year as above. You will find **flyers** in churches from Sunday 15th June, please take a few and post through your neighbours' letter boxes! Please click on the following link to take you to the dedicated web page on the Parish website which will give more details and directions to some gardens from last year and some new ones. Please save the dates! <https://www.avonvalleychurches.org.uk/open-gardens-25> Mark Ward mark@fordingbridge.com

Ice Cream Party for Open Doors at Andover: Sat Afternoon 19 July. Last time Open Doors Reps, Irene & Geoff, came to St Mary's FB, some folk told them they would like to go to this. Irene is making 20 different flavours of ice cream including at least one Dairy Free one. Ice Creams are free. Donations welcome for Open Doors. Please let me know if you would like to go to this event, or can offer to take a small group in your car. Pat B 837735

Food bank support If you support the Ringwood Foodbank which supports people in our area are you aware of the "Bankthefood" app you can download to your phone? Once set up this will tell you the items they most need and what they have plenty of and don't need. Having the right mix of food is vital to helping provide a balanced diet in the food parcels. If you ask it to, it can also send you alerts when you are near to a supermarket drop-off to remind you to purchase.

Many thanks to all who visited **St Boniface Church, Woodgreen** for the Patronal festival. The red and gold floral arrangements, matching the colours of St Boniface looked simply stunning! We had a wonderful weekend meeting people over a cuppa and cake, seeing Luke, our Rector and Sarah on Sunday morning and ending the weekend with Choral Evening, singing provided by the QPM choir from Salisbury! Their voices were glorious and then as if the weekend couldn't get any better, we mingled with friends old and new over canapés and a drink....

Fordingbridge LCC Minutes available in church. The approved minutes of the FB LCC meeting held in May are now available to view in the blue folder on the hymn book trolley in St Mary's, Fordingbridge. The approved June minutes will be available after our July meeting. Judith Dowsett, FB LCC Secretary.

Benefice Prayer circle - Consists of a group of 25 to 30 people from the Benefice who have committed to pray for those who are ill or in need of our prayers. If you know of anyone like this, having first asked them or their families permission, please give their names to any of the clergy, the church wardens, the Church Office, or directly to me. (01425 655493). When I receive any messages I then send out an email, only to that group of people, so that they may pray for the one who is in need. It would be lovely if more of our church members were willing to add to this praying group. Many thanks Dorothy Ashford

CHURCHWARDENS - Fordingbridge. - Please note that, for all new matters to be drawn to the attention of the Churchwarden(s) for St. Mary's, Fordingbridge, the

email has changed to churchwarden@fordingbridge@gmail.com with immediate effect.

Avon Valley Community Matters Bereavement Counselling Service is currently seeking a suitable room or office space in Fordingbridge to conduct counselling sessions and occasional meetings for our team of counsellors. Ideally, we are looking for a location that is centrally located within the town (but not within a private residence), offering a quiet and professional environment. If you are aware of any available spaces that might be suitable, or have any suggestions, please get in touch with Andy at: avcommunitymatters@gmail.com Your support is greatly appreciated.

Our sincere **congratulations** to **Mark Ward** on being **accepted** for **ordination training**. This has been a long journey for Mark whilst faithfully maintaining his role as a Licensed Lay Minister. He has shown resilience and patience throughout. He will train on the Ordained Ministry and Formation Programme at Sarum College. Fantastic Mark! Our love and prayers continue to be with you. (John Towler)

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

Lord our God,

in the name of Jesus Christ,

who is close at our side as the risen and living One,

we lift our eyes to you in prayer.

Bless us. Bless us through your Word,

and let our hearts become quiet in you.

Free us from all restlessness and from the turmoil of the present age,

for we belong to you, not to the world.

We want to find peace in you and remain in you.

You will care for us as your children, whom you will never forget in all eternity.

Bless us and renew the riches of your grace in us every day,

for you, O Lord our God,

remain our Father.

Amen.

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 One

22nd June 2025

at 'Avon Valley Churches'

Sun 22nd	8.15am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Woodgreen	Morning Service
	10.45am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	6.00pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong
Fri 27th	10.30am	Woodgreen	Fairtrade Coffee morning
	12.00 noon	Woodgreen Village Hall	CAMEO
Sun 29th	10.00am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Frogham (Harry's Field)	Tent Service Songs of Praise

Readings for Sunday 29th June :Acts 12:1-11, Matthew 16:13-19