

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



29th June 2025 - Trinity Two

Dear Alex, Ruth, and Vicky

We hope this weekend will be special and normal for you in many ways as Ruth and Vicky you are ordained to the priesthood, and Alex as you are ordained to the diaconate. I know there has been much soul searching in your journeys to this point, all different from each other, and yet converging beyond each one of you as Christ, through his church, places his seal of love once again on each one of you. Awesome, exciting, scary and with a right tinge of asking the question, 'What have I done? What have I let myself in for?' 'How am I going to match up in this role?' Keep asking the questions because that will keep you curious and discerning about how God will want to use you as ordained ministers in this Parish.

Above all, I would commend you reflect constantly about 'How can I be the best priest/deacon I can be, given all the pressures and anxieties, the joys and the sorrows that will come your way?' Being here and there for all people in our communities is a challenge. Listen before you speak; be gentle with the broken-hearted; be curious with those seeking meaning in living; value your presence with others as God's ambassador wherever the Master Jesus takes you; know his Presence in Word and Sacrament; above all, be real; remember you do not have to have all the answers, simply walk humbly with others; know that God's Holy Spirit is your guide and mentor even in the darkest of times- especially when prayer seems barren; you cannot escape suffering-the job will cost you; continue to cherish your nearest and dearest.

Try not to be hard on yourselves when you fail. Let the Bible be a companion and guide and not a weapon with which to dominate others points of view. I, and I am sure we all, wish you have a truly wonderful day full of laughter and joy with your nearest and dearest; may you each know Christ's love for you just as you are-and a day and ministry full of alleluias. God bless you Alex, Ruth, Vicky.

Much love, John (on behalf of us all) xxx

The Rev'd John Towler

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: 29th June 2025

Trinity Two

COLLECT:

Faithful Creator,
your mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
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 Acts of the Apostles

Acts 12:1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.² He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.³ After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.)⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.⁵ While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.⁶ The very night before Herod was going to bring him out,

Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison.⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists.⁸ The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.'⁹ Peter^[a] went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision.¹⁰ After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him.¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

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 16:13-19

Jesus asks the disciples what people are making of him, and Peter affirms his ministry.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' ¹⁴ And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' ¹⁵ He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

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:

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Luke out and about: Monday : 10am-12 Meeting with Vicky, **Tuesday**: 12.30pm church office 1.10pm Collective worship at Breamore **Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion at Fordingbridge, 11-6pm Deanery Chapter at Christchurch Priory **Thursday**: 2.00pm Funeral at Fordingbridge followed by burial **Friday** 10.00am Staff meeting **Saturday** 7.30pm Bournemouth Male Voice Choir at Fordingbridge **Sunday** 10.00am Holy Communion at Hyde, 6pm Six O'Clock Service at Fordingbridge

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.

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 1st 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.

Vicky Semple, one of our curates is of course being priested on Saturday 28th of June, which means among other things that she is now authorised to preside at Holy Communion. The first service at which she will preside will be our midweek Holy Communion at St Mary's Fordingbridge at **10am on Wednesday 2nd July** followed with coffee and cake If you would like to join us that would be wonderful, as we celebrate this new phase in Vicky's ministry.

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!

Hyde Mothers' Union next meeting is on **July 8th at 2.30pm** in Hyde Church Centre. Julie Frances will be speaking about "Godly Play" and demonstrating her kits. All are welcome to hear this way of presenting Bible truths.

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.

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 churchwarden1fordingbridge@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)

CAP (Christians against Poverty) Debt Centre Manager – The local Churches Together groups are working to set up a CAP Debt Advice Centre covering Ringwood and Fordingbridge (and based in the Parish Office at Ringwood). We are looking to recruit a Debt Centre Manager and Budget Coach. This will be a part time role (16 hours per week) and pay about £13,000 (FTE £32,500). The hope is for the Centre to open this Autumn and appropriate training will be provided by CAP. The Church Office or I can provide a copy of the Job Description which does contain an occupational requirement to be a Christian. The closing date for applications is Sunday, 13 July with interviews on Tuesday, 22 July. Julian Sims

Daily Bible Readings - to help and encourage us all to read the Bible more Luke produces Bible reading notes for every day. You can access these from Luke's Facebook page or if you e-mail him and ask he will e-mail them to you every morning (rector@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) Colossians 3v16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

Mike Ireland would like to say a big **thank-you** for all your prayers, enquiries and good wishes during the last two weeks or so. He is making steady progress and is looking forward to life returning to normal as soon as possible, Thankyou once again.

Sunday Evenings at St Mary's Fordingbridge - Sung evensong occurs on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (unless otherwise advertised) at 6pm in St Mary's Fordingbridge? It's a tradition that stretches back hundreds of years which joins us to those generations who have gone before. Each week we sing a psalm, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and then listen to an anthem specially prepared for us by the choir before spending time in contemplative prayer. On the 1st Sunday we offer "The 6 o'clock" which is a more contemporary service with equally lovely but more contemporary music and a gentle exploration of a specific topic, and if you want to you can stay for supper! Why not give either or both a try!

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

The Rope of Hope

A quote from Theodore Roosevelt –'When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.' I am not keen on that quote. I reached the end of my rope in 1984, when I joined a long dole queue, in the snow, in Chesterfield. How I arrived at that point is another story, but I had four children, no job, no house, no money. I can remember thinking ok, the only way from here is up. The rope I was in danger of falling from was the one to which I had tied myself for security in life, I could not just 'hang on' waiting for something to happen.

I could have prayed to God to solve my problem for me. I did not do that, but I am now sure that in fact he did, and it was part of His plan for how my life should proceed. With His help Janet and I clawed our way back up that rope. How is yet another story. I did not realise at that time, that I should have tied myself to God as my primary long term security source. Our life rope on this planet has a finite length and when you reach it's end there is no way back. We will all one day, find ourselves near the end of it. Tying a knot and hanging on will only be a temporary course of action, so at the right time, be thankful for your faith, put your trust in God, let go of that rope and grasp the rope of hope that God will offer you.

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 Two

29th June 2025

at 'Avon Valley Churches'

Sun 29th	10.00am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Frogham (Harry's Field)	Tent Service Songs of Praise
Wed 2 nd	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Heather Cottage Rockford	Bible Study
Thurs 3 rd	2.00pm	Fordingbridge	The Funeral of the late Adrian Barclay
Sat 5 th	7.30pm	Fordingbridge	Bournemouth Male Voice Choir Concert
Sun 6th	8.15am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts
	10.00am	Hale	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	6.00pm	Fordingbridge	The Six O'Clock Service