

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



6th July 2025 - Trinity Three

Prayer is a waste of time?

Last Saturday was the time for the Breamore Car Boot sale. Church helpers pray urgently for a fine day while local farmers pray for much needed rain. Who does God give the greater attention to? How can God answer the incompatible prayers of good people? St Paul was surely right when he said, *'we do not know how to pray as we ought.'* It is encouraging to know that St Paul and the greatest of saints have all experienced the same dilemmas as us.

Perhaps the reason for our dilemma is that we do not know how to talk **to** God because we do not know how to talk **about** God. Fr Herbert McCabe writes, "The mystery which is the answer to the most profound problem of all, the problem of why there is anything at all instead of nothing, this mystery that we label God lies far beyond anything we can conceive or put into words." So, who are we addressing? The Psalmist offers an immense variety of ways of addressing God ranging from pleading to gratitude, cajolery to complaint. Sometimes he addresses a passionate lover, a generous friend, sometimes a boss who can be forgetful even cruel. To which of them should we pray if we are to pray as we ought? McCabe answers, **'none'** of them is best but **any** will do. We can never pray as we **ought** so let's pray as we **can**. Paul's teaching liberates us. There is no special way to catch God's attention. All ways are equally inappropriate. Even our selfish petitions can lead us into self-exploration and greater awareness of God's grace.

It doesn't matter that our words are inadequate because real prayer is that of the Spirit that prays within us. *"we do not know how to pray as we ought but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words."* And that Spirit is the same Spirit that is the interchange of love between the Father and the Son. We are caught up in the life and love of the Holy Trinity.

So, is prayer a waste of time? Yes, because the essence of love is to 'waste' time with the beloved. No, because in prayer we are changed.

Canon Nigel Coates

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: 6th July 2025

Trinity Three

COLLECT:

God our Saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace
won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

PSALM 30

1. I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up
and have not let my foes triumph over me.
2. O Lord my God, I cried out to you
and you have healed me.
3. You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.
4. Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks to his holy name.
5. For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime.
Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
6. In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved.
You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'
7. Then you hid your face from me
and I was utterly dismayed.
8. To you, O Lord, I cried;
to the Lord I made my supplication:
9. 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?
10. 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper.'
11. You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12. Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

Galatians 6:1-16

Paul urges the Galatians to act for the good of all.

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads. ⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher. ⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. ¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised - only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus sends his followers out on a mission in his name.

¹ The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, 'The

harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." ¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.' ¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!' ¹⁸ He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written 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:

O God, your beauty is beyond our imagining
and your power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
AMEN.

Luke out and about: Monday : 12.30pm Church Office **Tuesday**: 9-4pm Luke and Alex induction at Winchester **Wednesday Thursday**: 9.15am staff zoom meeting 3-6pm Governors meeting at Hyde **Friday** Day off **Saturday** Open Gardens in Fordingbridge **Sunday** 8.15am Holy Communion at Hyde, 10.00am Sung Eucharist at Fordingbridge

Bournemouth Male Voice Choir, THIS Saturday 5th July at 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge. This is a major event to help raise funds for new automatic accessibility doors. This promises to be a super varied programme with something for everyone to enjoy! Tickets are £15 to include wine and other refreshments at the interval. Tickets available on the door, from Nigel Spratt and on-line via www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-church-fordingbridge. We look forward to seeing you there! Any queries and **to reserve tickets** please contact Nigel Spratt, warden2fordingbridge@gmail.com or phone 01202 824413.

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

Please note the church office will be **shut** on **Monday 14th July** as there is a planned power cut

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

Pimms, Hymns, Proms and Cream Teas: Come and join us at Woodgreen Village Hall in the wonderful garden on **Sunday, 27th July. 2pm till 4pm**, with live music. We are raising funds for St Boniface Church, Woodgreen. Tickets cost £10 and are available from Woodgreen Community shop, AVC shop (next to Co-Op), Lynda Warne 07799542707 or Chris Calder 07979695497.

Kinkiizi Talk and Lunch Latest news followed by a simple lunch Uganda-style. At St Mark's church, Highcliffe, BH23 5AB on **Saturday, 2nd August 12-2pm**. All welcome. Donations to kinkiizi please. Contact Gill on gillybjerg@btinternet.com or 07745 049824 or Lynda Warne on 07799542707

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.

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.

HOPE - As we age it is no fault of our own when disability and illness can have such an effect on us. Brenda found she felt very alone when she had to give up driving. That wasn’t all she had given up. Her independence and confidence had gone too. But befriending has changed her life giving her comfort, support and friendship. Help HOPE to help people like Brenda live out these years with a new found confidence. www.hopenewforest.org or call 01425 629 009

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."

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 story of the cracking of the secret German Enigma Code at Bletchley Park is well known. Much less so is a related incident that preceded it. The naval vessel H.M.S. Bulldog had a confrontation with a German U-boat during the Battle of the Atlantic. H.M.S. Bulldog dropped a depth charge, which hit its target.

The following morning the U-boat had surfaced and was badly damaged. The Captain then made a bold decision to board the damaged U-boat. The boarding party found the vessel empty and abandoned in great haste. At this point one of the crew spotted what looked like an unusual typewriter bolted down and plugged in as though it was in use when the vessel was abandoned. They unscrewed it and together with various codebooks took it aboard the H.M.S. Bulldog .

This heralded a moment of bravery and chance and was one of the most significant of the shortening the war and saving countless lives. So much importance was attached to this important find that Churchill did not tell our closest ally, The United States. There have been many stories told and retold during this year of V.E. surely this may be one of them

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 Three

6th July 2025

at 'Avon Valley Churches'

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
Fri 11th	1.00pm	Hale	Wedding
Sat 12th & Sun 13th	All day	Fordingbridge	Open Gardens
Sun 13th	8.15am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Breamore	Morning Service
	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00am	Hyde	All Age Service
	10.00am	Woodgreen	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	6.00pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong

Readings for Sunday 13th July: Luke 10:25-37, Colossians 1:1-14