

7th September 2025 - Trinity Twelve

Hope in the Making

I have just returned from a 3-day Christian festival called Greenbelt where the theme was 'Hope in the Making', and it's made me think a lot about hope, and how urgent and necessary it is in today's world.

And as we step into autumn, I wonder what you are hoping for. Good health? A call from a relative? A bit more money? A bit of rain for the garden? I expect there are many schoolchildren out there hoping for a smooth start to a new academic year. I remember the feeling of that first day back at school after the summer holidays – a messed-up mixture of excitement and dread. I wanted to run to my friends but run from the playground. A stomach full of butterflies and a satchel full of new pens and exercise books.

Hope is a funny thing. As Christians, we have faith that gives us hope – not only a hope that rejoices in eternal life, but a hope that God will daily renew our strength for all that is to come. But just like those children starting school, hope can be hard. Sometimes hope seems hopeless. Or we hope for something that just doesn't come, and each time that hope is dashed, we can get increasingly disheartened and the desire to run from the playground is huge.

But hope is also beautiful. And when we hope together, we can make a difference. So, my hope is that together we can make hope an active force here in Avon Valley. Let's bring hope and compassion to our streets. And may we all find acceptance, love and hope in our community together this autumn.

God bless, Alex Sains

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: 7th September 2025

Trinity Twelve

COLLECT:

God of constant mercy,
you sent your Son to save us :
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 139:1-8

1. O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
2. You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
3. For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4. You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
5. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
6. Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
7. If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8. If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 18:1-11

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²“Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. ⁴But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. ⁵Then the word of the Lord came to me. ⁶He said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?” declares the Lord. “Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. ⁷If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, ⁸and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. ⁹And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, ¹⁰and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. ¹¹“Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, ‘This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.’

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 14:25-33

Jesus urges his listeners reflect on their ultimate priorities

²⁵ Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ ‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war

against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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:

God of all mercy,
in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Luke Out and About: Mon: 7.30pm Fordingbridge LCC **Tuesday:** 12.30pm Church Office, 1.10pm Collective worship at Hyde, 7.30pm AVC PCC meeting at Fordingbridge Church hall **Wednesday** 10.00am Holy Communion at Fordingbridge **Thursday:** 9.15am team meeting, 3pm Post Alpha home group at Hyde **Friday** Day off **Saturday** Free **Sunday** .00am Holy Communion at Fordingbridge, 6pm Evensong at Fordingbridge

From **September onwards** there will be a service of **Holy Communion at 10.00am** at **St Mary's Fordingbridge every Wednesday** - all welcome. Also there will be an 8.15am Holy Communion at Fordingbridge if there is a fifth Sunday.

St Mary's Church Breamore – On Sunday 7th September, we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival with a service of **Matins at 10am**. Matins is a simple, gentle and quiet service using the words from the Book of Common Prayer. If you have never experienced a service of Matins , please take the opportunity to come and join us on this special occasion, and stay for 'Drinks and Nibbles' after the service. It would be lovely to see you at this service and social event.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN Please send all requests for prayer to any of the clergy , the church wardens, the Church Office, or directly to Dorothy Ashford (01425 655493)

T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) resumes after the Summer break at **10.30am on Wednesdays: 10 Sept at 15 Provost Street, and Sept 17 and 24 at The Rectory.** Jesus has had the news that Lazarus, his friend, has died. This Episode of "The Chosen" is both moving and amazing! All welcome to join us to see the Bible come to life. Refreshments. (Those going to midweek communion, just come on to us after the service) Pat B 837735 / Sarah W 07403 214208

Care home Visits Monday 15th 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 three 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. It will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff at both homes. Thank you. Mary Melbourne (LLM & Anna Chaplain)

MICHAELMAS GROUP. The next meeting on **Tuesday 16th September** at 7.30pm in the Church Hall will be the AGM followed by a talk by Wendy Reid from Fordingbridge Greener Living on Swifts and their initiative with swift boxes.

Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery Coffee morning - Saturday 20th September 10am - Noon at Godshill Village Hall, Godshill, SP6 2LP. Raising funds to purchase equipment to benefit the patients of Fordingbridge Surgery.

THE CHOSEN FREE FILM NIGHTS Coming up: **Saturday 20 September** "Reckoning", when Fr Alban Hood, OSB, Priest in Charge of the Roman Catholic churches in FB and Ringwood, intends to join us. **Saturday 11 October** "Beyond Mountains" when Rev Luke Wickings, Rector of the Parish of the Avon Valley Churches, intends to join us. **Saturday 15 November**, A Pre Christmas Special, when Paul Williams, Lead Elder of New Life Community Church, intends to join us. We look forward to you joining us too! 7.30 for 8pm at Fordingbridge Town Hall. Free Refreshments.

Harvest Festival Lunch, Fordingbridge Sunday 28th September 12 for 12.30pm. Please join us for our harvest celebration lunch. Tickets will be £10 for adults and £5 for children under 12. Please book by calling the church office on 01425 653163 or emailing on office@avonvalleychurches.org. You will need to include the number in your group and any dietary requirements such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten or dairy free. The main course will be a hotpot/casserole. Please bring own drinks and raffle money! If you can offer a pudding for 6-8 people or a small raffle prize please let Mark (Ward) know on either mark@fordingbridge.com or 07833 477834 preferably by text.

Jonathan Veira - If you remember and enjoyed the consummate JV concert a couple of years ago, in Fordingbridge, you might be interested to know he is appearing in his updated one-man show in Gosport on the evening of **4th Octo-**

ber. Further details on his website or from Melvyn Beynon (07711 469412)

Fordingbridge Flower Club - 50th Anniversary -Saturday 11th October 2025
2.00 pm St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge - We have a National Demonstrator, Lucy Ellis, demonstrating the title "GOLD" to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Tickets are £18 to include a sparkling afternoon tea.

Tickets from Helen Tague - 01425 655462 or email thetagues@fordingbridge.com

OPEN DOORS Magazines and Prayer Leaflets for September/October are here! They keep us informed about people like us, but unlike us, who are being persecuted for their Christian faith, and how we can help them: please take one from your church if you do not receive them by post.

Note for your diaries: We are delighted that **Open Doors speakers** are coming to the 10am service at St Mary's Church FB on **Sunday 19 October:** all welcome to be updated on what Open Doors are doing.

"Revelation, a glimpse of Heaven?" will be our next outreach drama. Bishop Philip is coming to join us. All will be most welcome to **St Mary's Church Fordingbridge, on Saturday 1st November at 3.00 pm.** The last book in the Bible is a tough challenge which ends on a glorious high note; this drama will bring out the key messages, including the predictions for our present world with its global warming and atomic fears, but also the joy for our ultimate future. We will hope to have a full church in good voice, as the choir leads the hymns that are integral to the story. News has gone out on the grapevine and already many have stepped forward to be involved. Others who would like to join us, please contact Jeremy HB on 01425 655596 or houghtonbrown.j@gmail.com

Buy a brick, build their future: The Kinkiizi Action Group would like your help to raise enough funds to complete the staff house at Bwanja Primary school. With over 200 children attending this remote rural school, staff have to spend valuable time travelling on very poor roads to reach the classrooms. We are asking for £5 donations for a brick, for us the cost of a coffee and cake. Can you help? We need a further £3,000 to make this happen. Ways to donate to Brick Appeal:

Cash: Please hand to your Church Warden, Lynda Warne or the Church Office in an envelope marked "Bricks". Please note that Sarah Perrelle plans to attend 10.00 am services on September 14th FB, 21st Breamore and 28th Hyde to accept your donations. **Bank Transfer:** Christchurch Deanery Account, Sort code 52-21-34 Account number 25750607 Ref Bricks **Cheques:** Should be made Payable to "Christchurch Deanery Synod Kinkiizi" Account
Unfortunately it is not possible to donate using a card. Sarah Perrelle & Lynda Warne KAG reps.

HELP NEEDED! St Mary's, Fordingbridge needs more people to join the small, dedicated team who lead the prayers at the **10am Sunday service.** Help and support to get you started is given. Just one more person would be fantastic and two would be amazing!! If you think God is calling you to this valuable ministry, please

contact Judith Dowsett (j.dowsett7@btinternet.com) for more information or one of the Clergy. Thank you very much.

Mark Ward – Ordination Training – Local Learning Group – whole Parish
Mark is training through Sarum College. He needs to form a Group of up to 8 people to meet with him about 8 times between October and June for 90 minutes. He needs members of the worshipping community and others from outside. 1) – would you be prepared to do this? 2) Do you have a spouse/partner who doesn't regularly attend church who might be interested? Mark needs opinions on various subjects – **THERE IS NO OTHER ACTIVITY TO DO.** You may not manage to attend all 8. If you are interested please email mark@fordingbridge.com as soon as possible. Attendance can be by Zoom.

KNEELERS HAVE NEW HOMES! Thank you to all who responded to the request to give the kneelers at St Mary's, Fordingbridge new homes. Most have gone to the people who made them or their families. Some have gone to other churches in the AVC or are staying in St Mary's. A few unnamed ones have gone to ministry team members or private individuals for their home prayer stations. Thank you

Reflection

Last Saturday we enjoyed Hyde Village Produce Show, marvelling at the beautiful flower arrangements and lush vegetables, how wonderful it was to see such bounty after the last months of incessant sunshine and drought. My sad desert of a garden mirrored the lack of vegetation on the Forest commons, the lack of water causing heartache all round. However, today the wind is battering the house with rain. The brown grass outside is gradually turning green. Leaves are flying everywhere. And low and behold there is a double rainbow in the sky! Autumn is on the march.

So, this week, let us say thanks for the rain, now it is here, let us join in thanksgiving. We are told there may well be a lot of it, which may hopefully save the Harvests.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the rain showers that we experienced this week. Thank You for hearing the cries of so many people and sending the rain to refresh and replenish the earth You created. We thank You for being the compassionate and merciful God who cares for Your people. Gracious Father, You said to be thankful for all things. We are grateful for the rain. You are an awesome God and we praise Your glorious Name! Amen

Jan Butcher

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 Twelve

7th September 2025

at 'Avon Valley Churches'

Sun 7th	8.15am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Breamore	Patronal Festival (Matins)
	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
Wed 10th	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Holy Communion
Sat 13th	1.30pm	Hale	Wedding
Sun 14th	8.15am	Hyde	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Breamore	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Fordingbridge	Sung Eucharist
	10.00am	Hyde	All age Service
	10.00am	Woodgreen	IONA Celtic Communion
	10.45am	Sandleheath	Methodist Service
	6.00pm	Fordingbridge	Evensong

Readings for Sunday 14th September | Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10