

## 17 March 2019 Lent 2 - 'He Blessed ...'



### *He blessed...*

During this season of Lent, we have planned a series of themed sermons to deepen our understanding of what worship is all about. We will hopefully be able to look beyond the services we like, or what we get out of coming to church...

On each of the Sundays, apart from Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday, we are beginning with one of Jesus' actions at the Last Supper: *He took* **He blessed** *He broke* and *He gave*.

As a staff team, we have begun a review of our pattern of worship across our benefice churches, which aims to ensure sustainability, whilst allowing room for church growth. It is also hoped that through our Lent series, we will **all** broaden our understanding of worship as whole-life mission and service, bringing glory to God in all spheres of our lives.

On this second Sunday of Lent, we will briefly reflect on the action of – *He blessed*. Like the bread blessed by Jesus, we too, are blessed by God. We are called to claim our blessing and to bless others as we live each day.

March 17th is Saint Patrick's Day. Patrick's power and his persuasion as a missionary were his personality – a life so open and expansive that it welcomed and blessed an entire nation. Today, many green tinted mugs and glasses will be raised in toasts – an elevation in which diverse humans rise above their differences to meet as one.

May God grant us the ease and the expansiveness of Saint Patrick, that **we**, as the church, may be the place of happy meeting – in toast and truth.

**Amen.**

*Rev Mike Trotman*

*Growing in Faith,  
Reaching Out  
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 IPT

*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.***

*Please stay after the morning service for tea and coffee, to meet folk and ask any questions. God Bless*

# READINGS - for you to use today and during the week

## Lent 2—'He Blessed ...' 17th March, 2019

### COLLECT:

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

### **PSALM 27** (*For Morning Prayer*)

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
2. When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
they stumbled and fell.
3. Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid,  
and though there rise up war against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.
4. One thing have I asked of the Lord  
and that alone I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,
5. To behold the fair beauty of the Lord  
and to seek his will in his temple.
6. For in the day of trouble  
he shall hide me in his shelter;  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock.

7. And now shall he lift up my head  
above my enemies round about me;
8. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
9. Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;  
have mercy upon me and answer me.
10. My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
11. Hide not your face from me,  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

## **A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

*In a mysterious ritual, God promises Abraham a nation and a land.*

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' <sup>8</sup> But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' <sup>9</sup> He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

*At the end, the Reader says:*

For 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 15:11-32*

*'He Blessed...'*

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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.)**

(c) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**AMEN.**

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 **GARY OUT & ABOUT** : **Monday** evening, Annual Parish Celebration at Breamore School. **Tuesday**, Governor Monitoring at Breamore School in the morning, and hosting a New Clergy Welcome Tea at Winchester Cathedral in the afternoon. **Wednesday**, Lent Group at the Rectory in the morning, Lent Lunch in Fordingbridge, at Evensong at Winchester Cathedral. **Thursday**, Staff meeting in the morning, Lent Group in Fordingbridge in the afternoon, Breamore Governors Meeting at tea time, and Fordingbridge PCC in the evening.

**DIARY DATES** : Monday 18th, 7.00p.m., Breamore School - Breamore Annual Parish Celebration. All welcome.

Sunday 24th, 6.30, Fordingbridge, Choral Evensong for the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY** : On Mothering Sunday, 31st March, some service times will be different. A list of all the Mothering Sunday services is as follows :

9.00am	Godshill	Mothering Sunday Service
9.30am	Hyde	Mothering Sunday Service
10.00am	Woodgreen	Mothering Sunday Café Service
10.30am	Fordingbridge	Allsorts Mothering Sunday Service
10.45am	Sandleheath	Mothering Sunday Service
11.00am	Breamore	Mothering Sunday Service

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK**, April 15th - There will be a Sung Compline at Breamore at 7.30 that evening. Gary is getting a choir together, and the plainsong music is very simple. There will be a short rehearsal the previous day at 12.00 noon (after the Palm Sunday Service), and/or on the Monday evening at 6.45. **If you would like to join the choir, please speak to Gary.**

**GODSHILL COFFEE MORNING** : Wednesday 20 March, starting at 10am with prayers followed by coffee at 10.15am. All welcome at Godshill Village Hall.

**QUIZ NIGHT** : Fordingbridge Choral Society is holding a fundraising Quiz Night on Saturday 30th March in the Church Hall at 7pm. Cost is £10 and includes two-course supper. Bring your own drinks please. You can buy your tickets from Jane Calver - 01425 656189 or email [janecalver@btinternet.com](mailto:janecalver@btinternet.com). Hope you can come.

**MICHAELMAS** : The next meeting of the Michaelmas group will be on Tuesday, 19th March at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. The speaker will be from "It's Your Choice—Helping Young People in the New Forest Area 12-25 years to put the pieces together", which offers free information, guidance etc. to those aged 12 to 25 years. All welcome. Further details are on their website [iyc.org.uk](http://iyc.org.uk)

**THEATRE TRIP** : "Educating Rita" at Salisbury Playhouse Wednesday 19th June 7.30pm. £14.50 a ticket. Starring Stephen Tompkinson aka DCI Banks and Danny in Wild at Heart. Contact me on 01425 655462 or email [thetagues@fordingbridge.com](mailto:thetagues@fordingbridge.com) Payment required by 25th March please. **Only 7 seats left!** Helen Tague

**WEDDING FAIR** : Sunday 28 April, 11am to 3pm. All are welcome to the Wedding Fair being held jointly at St Mary's Hale and Hale Park —many local wedding suppliers will be attending inc photographers, flowers, cars, dresses, food wine and more.

**SPRING CLEAN at St Mary's Church, Hale**: Ahead of our Wedding Fair (see above) on 28 April and many weddings this year, our church needs an extra clean and tidy up - inside and out! We plan to tackle the cobwebs etc from 10am to midday on Saturday 13th April. We will then enjoy a fish and chip lunch together. All welcome to join in. Call Rev Nicky to join in and to book your lunch order. 07931 413629.

**LENT GROUPS** continue this week, as follows :

**'Experiencing Prayer':**

- Wednesday mornings, 10.00, the Rectory, 71 Church Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1BB;
- Thursday afternoons, 2.30 at Slate Cottage, 27, Bridge Street, Fordingbridge. SP6 1AH
- Thursday evenings, 7.30 at St Boniface, Woodgreen.

**'A Beautiful Friendship'**, based on the film, 'Casablanca':

- Thursday evenings at 7.30 in Frogham Chapel at Hyde, SP6 2HZ (Coffee from 7.10).

**The LENT LEAFLET has full details of all the Lent Services and Activities - it is now available in the March Magazines, in Church, or from our website.**

**LENT LUNCHESES** : The 7 Lent Lunches in 2019 will continue on Wednesdays until the last lunch on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, in Holy Week, all from 12.15pm – 1.30pm.** Hopefully you have these dates in your diary and can join us in the church hall to enjoy home-made soup etc. Thank you to everyone who has already offered help with serving soup, making coffee/tea and washing up; the rota is almost full. Funds raised from our Lent Lunches will be shared between St Mary's Church and The Children's Society. Thank you. Martin and Jane Calver (01425 656189).

**CHRISTINGLE THANK YOU** : The Children's Society have written to thank everyone for their generous donation of £411.92 raised at the 50th anniversary Christingle services. For more information about how the donation helps vulnerable children, visit [childrenssociety.org.uk](http://childrenssociety.org.uk)

**BREAMORE QUIZ NIGHT!** - Saturday 23rd March in the Hulse Hall, Breamore. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Delicious hot supper. Bar and raffle. Still only £10 for a ticket! Available from Viv or Andy Finch 01725 512267. Come on your own or with a team of 6/8. We can guarantee a fun evening!

**LEGO AMNESTY!** : We are currently collecting Lego, if anyone has any they would like to donate, please drop it off at the Church Office. Many thanks.

**RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE FOODBANK** : The Warehouse is asking for some gluten free products—snacks, bread, biscuits, flour etc. Rice cakes are acceptable too. Thank you for all your support. Sarah Perrelle

**OPEN DOORS : What happened when Open Doors launched their World Watch List 2019 in Parliament?** You can read about this, and other topical issues in the March Open Doors magazine and Prayer Diary out now! Thank you everyone, who takes the Open Doors magazine, and prays for the persecuted church. Pick up a copy to see how you can help people like us, who suffer for being a Christian. More information from [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org). *And Note For Your Diary:* there will be a Speaker from Open Doors at St Mary's FB (at 9.30am) and St Mary's Breamore, (at 11am) on Sunday 12 May.

**REFLECTION** : Listening to Monty Don in Gardeners World talking so lovingly about his plants brings to mind the song 'Oh what a wonderful world'. Each species of plant has to be treated differently, some like a lot of water, others very little; some have to be planted in acid soil, others can't tolerate it. In planting, the gardener has to know just how each plant needs to be treated and grown to get the most beautiful flowers and palatable vegetables. The trees too have their likes and dislikes and hidden ways of communicating with each other. The life of trees is fascinating; living for hundreds of years we might ponder on what they might tell us if they could talk to us!

We might also ponder, as human beings, on our own differences in race, colour and religion, our likes, dislikes and what we regard as 'right' and 'wrong'. The more we are aware of ourselves - how we 'tick' the more we can understand and relate to others. We might consider God as our Gardner, treating each of us differently but loving us equally.

*Daphne Himmel*

**EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN** : Please send all requests for prayer to [prayer@avp-benefice.org.uk](mailto:prayer@avp-benefice.org.uk). If you feel able to commit to regular prayer for those on the list and wish to become a prayer partner, please make contact via the above e-mail address.

# 17th March, 2019 — Lent 2 — 'He Blessed ...'

<b>Sunday 17 March</b>	8.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	8.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	9.30am	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	10.00am	<b>Annual Church Celebration/baptism</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>
	10.00am	<b>Worship for all</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	10.45am	<b>C of E Morning Service</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>
	11.00am	<b>Matins (NB-changed)</b>	<b>Breamore</b>
	11.30am	<b>Baptism</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	4.00pm	<b>Baptism meeting in church</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
6.30pm	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	
<b>See inside for Lent Group details</b>			
Monday 18	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
Tuesday 19	9.15am	Alpha Course, The Vicarage	Hyde
	10.00am	Godshill Coffee Morning, Village Hall	Godshill
	7.00pm	Alpha Course, The Vicarage	Hyde
Wednesday 20	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Bible Study, Heather Cottage	Rockford Common
	11.30am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	12.15pm	Lent Lunch, Church Hall	Fordingbridge
	1.30pm	<i>Funeral—late Marjorie Whatley</i>	<i>Fordingbridge</i>
	7.45pm	Meditation Drop In	Fordingbridge
Thursday 21	7.30pm	Bell Ringing	Fordingbridge
	7.30pm	Fordingbridge PCC, Church Hall	Fordingbridge
Friday 22	6.20pm	Choir practice	Fordingbridge
<b>Sunday 24 March</b>	8.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	9.30am	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	10.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Hale</b>
	10.45am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>
	11.00am	<b>Holy Communion (NB - changed)</b>	<b>Breamore</b>
6.30pm	<b>Evensong (1st EP Annunciation)</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>	

Contact : Jackie Garratt or Gail Newell, Church Office, The Rainbow Centre, 39 Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AB

Tel. 01425 653163

e-mail:church.office@fordingbridge.com

www.avp-benefice.org.uk

**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN - MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10.30am to 12 noon**