

5th May 2019—3rd Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends

I can't believe that it is May already and what a busy month it is going to be. We have 2 Bank Holidays and in our churches we will be celebrating Ascension Day and Rogation Sunday.

Ascension Day is officially celebrated on a Thursday, on the 40th day of Easter (or 39 days after Easter Sunday). In some countries it is celebrated as a public holiday.

Ascension Day is sometimes called Father's Day in Germany because many Protestant men have 'herrenpartien' or 'outings' on this day. In Sweden many people go out to the woods at 3am or 4am to hear the birds at sunrise. It is good luck if a cuckoo is heard from the east or west. These jaunts are called *gökotta*, or "early cuckoo morning".

Ascension Day is also associated with various water festivals ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the Planting of the "Penny Hedge" at Whitby, in Yorkshire. On Rogation Sunday customs may include "beating the bounds". In years gone by, it involved beating boys with willow branches as they are driven along parish boundaries, not only to purify them of evil but to teach them the limits of their parish. 'Beating the Bounds' has been carried out for many centuries. In Scotland, the tradition was known as 'Riding the Marshes'; a method of reaffirming the parish boundaries from before the introduction of maps. In some parishes, this annual ritual is still very much part of village or town life. It is believed that this religious practice was first introduced in Vienne, France, around AD 470 by Bishop Mamertus. There were many reasons for the ceremony but the parishioners believed that it would 'avert great calamities'. It would affirm their devotion to God; ask him for forgiveness from sins and for protection from evil and to bless the congregation and the fruits of their labour.

May we all be blessed this May time.

Kate Wilson

*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

5th May 2019 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

COLLECT:

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

AMEN.

PSALM 30:1-6 *(For Morning Prayer)*

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.'

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 9:1-6

The beginning of the story of Paul's conversion.

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵ He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

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 *John*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

John 21:1-19

Peter is given the chance to make amends for his three-fold denial of Jesus.

¹ Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶ He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake.

⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' ¹⁹ He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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:

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

AMEN.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN : Please send all requests for prayer to 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.



GARY OUT & ABOUT : *Tuesday*, Coffee Morning at Sandleheath in the morning, and leading Evensong in Winchester Cathedral late afternoon. *Wednesday*, Ministers' Breakfast at Alderholt, Communion at Fordingbridge, Funeral in the afternoon, followed Governors Meeting at Breamore, and a Joint PCC Planning Meeting in the evening. *Thursday*, Communion in the Office and Staff Meeting, involved with TV crew during the day (details overleaf) and Southern Area Team of Area Deans, etc., in the evening. *Friday*, meetings and preparation. Next *Sunday*, leading Evensong at Winchester Cathedral at 3.30. If anyone would like to come, let me know.

THY KINGDOM COME: The Archbishops have asked us once again to make the 10 days between Ascension Day (May 30th) and Pentecost (June 9th) a special time of prayer. As well as praying during our Sunday Worship, there will be prayers each day in different Churches, and special resources to help us pray in Church and at home. Full details coming soon.

MARK WARD'S SABBATICAL: Having been in continuous ministry in the Partnership for not much short of 20 years, Mark is taking a well-earned sabbatical for the next few months. We will still see him around, but he won't be leading worship and so on during this time. We pray and hope it will be a time of refreshment and renewal for him. Gary.

FORDINGBRIDGE: Special Meeting of Parishioners: This very short meeting will take place during the notices in the 10.30a.m. Allsorts Service on Sunday, May 5th at St Mary's Fordingbridge. The purpose is to elect a second Churchwarden for the coming year. Nominations must be in before the meeting commences - forms available in Church. Agenda: 1. Apologies for Absence, 2. Election of one Churchwarden.

KINKIIZI EVENING : Saturday 18 May at 7pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Fordingbridge—an evening with an illustrated talk, a short film and African style food! Retiring collection in aid of Kinkiizi funds. Tickets are free but please let Nicky Davies (07931 413629) or the Church Office know if you would like to attend (for catering).

LAMENTATION FOR THE NAKBA CATASTROPHE : The 71st anniversary of the Palesitnian Nakba which drove 3/4 of the population from their homes will be commemorated on 15 May at 7.30pm at St Mary's Fordingbridge. Rev Jonathan Herbert will lead the service and there will be Palestinian refreshments served after the service. More details from Nicky Davies 07931 413629.

SCONE TASTERS REQUIRED! ITV's programme This Morning will be filming here St Mary's Fordingbridge on Thursday 9th May. Heidi Trotman is going to be learning earlier in the day how to cook the perfect scone and we need some tasters!! If anyone is happy to eat and be filmed please come to St Mary's Church for 2.15pm on Thursday. There will also be a guest celebrity so it should be a fun time! Tea and scones will be served—Sarah Perelle has kindly offered to make tea if anyone would like to help in the kitchen area that would be great. Please let Heidi know if you have any queries on 07402355559.

HYDE PLANT SALE AND CREAM TEAS: Bank Holiday Monday 6 May, Hyde War Memorial Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm. Come and enjoy the afternoon but, most importantly, buy plants for your garden (shrubs, perennials, bedding, vegetables and herbs) and join us for tea. There are other stalls (bric a brac, craft jewellery, cakes) and entertainments (tombola, raffle, jimjam jars etc) too. In aid of Hyde Church. Contact: Catherine Avery Jones 01425 653721

FORDINGBRIDGE MOTHERS' UNION : The trip to Hilliers Gardens is on Wednesday May 8th. There is no meeting in the Church Hall on that day.

WANTED : Empty food pots - 500g or 1kg (with lids) for Boost clients to take home leftover food. Butter or margarine tubs are ideal. Please leave in the Food Trolley. Thank you. Sarah Perelle

OPEN THE BOOK : We have started Open the Book storytelling in schools and if anyone is interested in getting involved, there is a training course (organised by the Diocese) on Thursday 23rd May, 10am to 3pm at St Anne's Church, Cooks Lane, Calmore. Contact Jo Heath if you are interested, via email at families@avp-benefice.org.uk or 07515533685

FORDINGBRIDGE CULTURE WEEK : May 29th-June 7th. Fordingbridge Events Group have organised a Culture Week; bringing together many local artists, choirs, schools and community groups to showcase artistic talent. Throughout the week, there series of events and workshops for all ages - and by all ages. There are a mixture of free and paid-for events. All the details are available by visiting www.fordingbridgeevents.com

'BOBBY BUDDIES' : Hampshire Police have an initiative which allows them to give children a knitted 'Bobby Buddy' to help them through times which may be distressing. If you would like to knit and donate a Bobby Buddy, there are copies of the pattern in each church (or if you would like a copy emailed to you, please contact the Church Office).

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED : Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Wednesday 8 May due to staff training.

BIG CHURCH LUNCH! On Sunday 12 May, at Burgate School, from 12.30 -3pm, you are invited by Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District to a delicious Hog Roast lunch (with a veggie option). Bring your own drinks/cups. If the weather is wet we shall be under cover in the school. If fine, bring your deckchairs! Tickets £2 now available from Pat Bloomfield, CTFD Rep. Tel 01425 837735, or The Branch, 1 High St. Fordingbridge.

HELP WITH BIG CHURCH LUNCH PUDS : If you can provide a 'Pudding for 8' for this event, please let Pat B know as soon as possible. (01425 837735)

THE BRANCH : working with **Poulner Baptist Chapel** will be running the CAP Money Course which teaches a simple cash-based system that helps people know how to build a household budget in a matter of weeks. The CAP Money Course is the biggest provider of adult face-to-face money tuition in the UK. Trained coaches can help you gain control of your money matters within three sessions. The free help is for everyone. The course will run on three consecutive Tuesdays: 7th, 14th & 21st of May from 7.30 – 9 pm at The Branch, 1 High Street, Fordingbridge. Call the office on 07909711886 or email info@thebranchfordingbridge.co.uk

OPEN DOORS : There will be a Speaker from Open Doors at 9.30am at St Mary's Fordingbridge and 11am at St Mary's Breamore on Sunday 12 May.

T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) will be meeting at 15 Provost Street, at 10.45am, to watch a DVD, discuss it, and to pray. Thursdays 23 May, 13 & 27 June. Newcomers welcome. Light refreshments. Further details from John or Pat Bloomfield 837735.

REFLECTION : The weeks after the Resurrection must have been a strange time for the disciples. Jesus kept appearing and disappearing at odd times – to Mary in the garden. Thomas had to put his hand in His side to believe; on the road to Emmaus as a stranger; and to the disciples when He helped them to catch the fish which He cooked for breakfast. What are these stories telling us? - we who have never seen Jesus? We have doubts like Thomas yet somehow something always happens that gives us hope again that God is with us. Bishop Richard Holloway says "We live ourselves forward and understand ourselves backward." We live in the present sometimes even automatically, often looking to the future. We only become aware that maybe God was guiding us when we look back. It is difficult for us to 'rest' in the present when life is so fast – our minds work so fast trying to 'fit everything in'. 'Patience is a virtue, possess I if you can' we were told as children! As the hymn says 'Dear Lord give us Grace to persevere'!

Daphne Himmel

5th May 2019
3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday 5	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
May	8.30am	Holy Communion	Breamore
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	10.00am	Short Holy Communion	Hale
	and	Short Steam Service	Woodgreen
	10.30am	Allsorts (inc meeting of parishoners)	Fordingbridge
	10.45am	Morning Service	Sandleheath
	4.30pm	Youth Space	Hyde
Monday 6	2-4pm	Hyde Plant Sale/Teas—War Memorial Hall	Hyde
Tuesday 7	10.00am	Sandleheath Coffee Morning	Sandleheath
Wednesday 8		Church Office closed all day	Fordingbridge
	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	12noon	<i>Funeral—late John Colenutt</i>	<i>Fordingbridge</i>
	7.45pm	Meditation Drop In	Fordingbridge
Thursday 9	7.30pm	Bellringing	Fordingbridge
Friday 10	6.20pm	Choir Practice	Fordingbridge
Sunday 12	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
May	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Fordingbridge
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	10.00am	Café Christian Aid Service	Woodgreen
	10.45am	Morning Service	Sandleheath
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Breamore
	12.30pm	Big Church Lunch, Burgate School	Fordingbridge