

6 January 2019—Epiphany

THE AVP BREXIT DEBATE

We've found it quite difficult to talk about Brexit in Church, as we are of such divided opinion.

We have thought of using the front of Partners for the next few weeks for the 'AVP Brexit Debate'. Anyone can have their say. What from Christian tradition can we use in our thinking?

THE RULES: All entries must be courteous; you can state your own view, not pillory those of others; limit of 100 words; try to reflect from a Christian perspective; you can be printed anonymously, but must supply your name; send entries to me at the Rectory (Rectory@AVP-Benefice.org.uk) by Wednesday lunchtime, and a panel of differing views will adjudicate them – their decision is final.

So, here are my thoughts as a starter:

Parliament seems incapable of coming to a decision, so we should go for a 'People's Vote'. We now know what is on offer, what we might gain or lose, how things might look. In any other walk of life, a major decision would be reviewed as it went along, so it should be with this. All of us would have the opportunity to confirm what we voted last time, or to change our minds (in either direction) in the light of events and the deal the Prime Minister has negotiated. If we believe in the voice of the people, whatever our view, we shouldn't be afraid of a second vote.

What do you think?

*Blessings, and a Happy New Year,
Gary.*

*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

6 January 2019
Epiphany

COLLECT:

Creator of the heavens,
you led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 72:10-15 *(For Morning Prayer)*

10. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
11. All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
12. For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.
13. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
14. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
15. Long may he live,
and may there be given to him gold from Arabia,
may prayer be made for him always,
and may they bless him all the day long.

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:1-12

Paul, writing to Gentiles in Ephesus, assures them that they also share in the riches of Christ.

¹ I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 *Matthew*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Matthew echoes the words of Isaiah as he describes the visit of the Gentile Wise Men to Jesus.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ² ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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:

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PLEASE NOTE—THIS EDITION OF PARTNERS WAS PREPARED IN ADVANCE SO SOME ITEMS MAY APPEAR OUT OF DATE OR REPEATED

GARY OUT & ABOUT :



Wednesday 9th, Communion at Fordingbridge, a Benefice of the future Lunch at Kate Wilson's, and Story and Song at Fordingbridge Nursery.

Thursday 10th, Staff Communion and meeting in the morning, Area Deans' Farewell Lunch for Bishop Jonathan in Southampton, and Staff Team Monthly Meeting in the evening.

Friday 11th, Planning for the Churches Together Unity Week Service at Lunchtime, ATC visit in the evening.

Saturday 12th, Godshill Village Meeting in the Church there at 10.00, looking at the possible development of St Giles - all welcome; and leading Evensong at Winchester Cathedral (the Precentor, for whom Gary deputises, has moved on, and Gary will be there a bit more often in the coming months).

FAREWELL SERVICE FOR THE BISHOP OF SOUTHAMPTON: Most people will know that Bishop Jonathan of Southampton has been appointed the new Dean of York Minster. He has been a wonderful support to the Deanery, and we are sure that many will want to thank him for his ministry here, and pray for him and Christine as they prepare for their new life in York. ***All are invited to: WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 19th, 5.30p.m Perhaps each Church/Parish/Benefice might like to send a card to Bishop Jonathan – either by post, or with the people attending.***

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE : Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Tuesday 8 January. Normal opening hours from Wednesday 9 January.

ALPHA IS COMING TO OUR COMMUNITY! You are invited to Alpha for a time of great food, even better conversation and talks that make you think. Alpha is a chance to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, informal and open environment.

Where & When: Mike & Heidi's, The Vicarage, Frogham Hill, SP6 2HH.

M: 07525 662999

E: metrotman@yahoo.co.uk

Starting on Tuesday 22nd January at 9.15am (after the school run) or 7pm.

Why not give Alpha a go?

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.

FAIRTRADE FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS : All are welcome at the Fairtrade Friday Coffee Morning at St Boniface Church, Woodgreen SP6 2AJ—held on the last Friday of the month (except for December). 2019 dates are :

Fri Jan 25 th	
Fri Feb 22 nd	Big Brew in aid of Traidcraft
Fri Mar 29 th	Special FREE event to encourage new friends
Fri Apr 26 th	Including a traditional English singalong for St. George's Day
Fri May 31 st	then "Ploughman's and a Pud" lunch for Christian Aid
Fri Jun 28 th	
Fri Jul 26 th	
Fri Aug 30 th	
Fri Sep 27 th	To be followed by a "Fish and Chips" lunch
Fri Oct 25 th	To include "Gravetalk"
Fri Nov 29 th	Including traditional Scottish singalong for St Andrew's Day
Fri Dec 13 th	Special Christmas coffee morning

OPEN MEETING AT ST GILES CHURCH, GODSHILL : 10am, Saturday 10 January 2019. All are welcome to hear and share views on the future development of the building as a church and as a resource for the community. Complimentary coffee and croissants (parking through gate opposite church)

KINKIIZI CHRISTMAS QUIZ : How about having a go at The Kinkiizi Christmas Quiz while you're recovering from eating too many mince pies! Quiz sheets are in all the churches and there is a £10 prize for the most correct answers.

To enter please return your completed sheet to Gill Tybjerg with a donation of £1 (or more) for Kinkiizi. Closing date: **January 15th 2019**. Enter by :

POST – to Gill, 27 Fernwood Close, St Ives, Ringwood, Hants BH24 2NQ

ONLINE – gillytybjerg@btinternet.com

HAND—to Gill or via a KAG member

Donate by cash or cheque (to Christchurch Deanery Synod Kinkiizi Account) or online to Christchurch Deanery Synod Kinkiizi A/c, sort code 52 21 34, A/c No 25750607 (please include a printout with your entry if you donate online)

The winner will be announced by January 31st

FORDINGBRIDGE INFANT and JUNIOR SCHOOLS : The newly federated Infant and Junior schools are keen to recruit a governor linked to church. If anyone is interested, please speak to Gary.



THANK YOU : to everyone who joined in the carol singing around the sheltered accommodation and care homes in Fordingbridge. It was much appreciated and enjoyed by all! Gary

PUZZLES@FORDINGBRIDGE : From today, we will be happy to receive your puzzles in St Mary's. Please leave them on the piano, as previously, and hopefully we will have lots of made up puzzles ahead of the Jigsaw Puzzle Festival. Many thanks.

WHAT IS THE MISSION MATTERS GROUP? Meeting 3/4 times a year to raise the profile of Mission and Social Justice in our churches, representatives from the Partnership churches, supported by the Rev'ds Gary, Nicky, and Mike, provide opportunities to explore our faith and what it involves. Watch out for the 'Books To Borrow' Pop Up table and our Traidcraft stalls; and don't miss the Speakers coming in 2019 to talk in our churches about :

The Children's Society (10 Feb) Open Doors (12 May) and
Christian Aid (19 May).

Want to know more? Contact John & Pat Bloomfield (837735) or Alan & Gwenda Moore (650104)

ENTRIES FOR PARTNERS: Please note that the deadline for entries is 12noon on the Thursday before each Sunday. Space may be limited so please keep articles as brief as possible, whilst including the essential information! Priority will be given in this order:- to AVP events, to events associated with AVP church groups, to charitable events in the AVP area, then to other events in the AVP area, and finally to events out of the area. We try to include as much as possible, but can't guarantee inclusion. Thank you for your understanding. Please use the various AVP magazines to advertise your events well in advance.

REFLECTION : Epiphany is not just the day when we take down the Christmas decorations thus ending Christmas with the story of the Three Wise Men who follow the star. No, the Epiphany Season lasts until February with the presentation of Christ in the Temple. This gives us time to consider the message and insight the Three Wise Men give us. We know them as being of three individual races and religions. They came to worship and acknowledge the one and only God. It is hard for us to recognise that we share 'our Church of England Christian God' with the entire world, regardless of race or religion. Just as we have our individual roots which all join with the one root so we have different ways of worshipping the one God. We find our own path to worship God and our own path into his presence. Once we have found that path it is helpful to stay with it.

He prayeth best, who loveth best / All things both great and small; / For the Dear God who loveth us, / He made and loveth all."

(The Rime of the Ancient Mariner)

Daphne Himmel

This Week

6 January 2019—Epiphany

Sunday 6 January	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	8.30am	Holy Communion	Breamore
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Hale
	10.30am	Allsorts and Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	10.45am	Covenant Service	Sandleheath
	4.30pm	Youth Space	Hyde
Monday 7	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
Tuesday 8		Church Office closed	
Wednesday 9	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Prayer Meeting	Frogham Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
Thursday 10	3.30pm	Boost	Fordingbridge
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing	Fordingbridge
Friday 11	10.30am	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	Woodgreen
	6.20pm	Choir practice	Fordingbridge
Sunday 13 January	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Fordingbridge
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	10.00am	Morning Service	Woodgreen
	10.45am	C of E Morning Service	Sandleheath
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Breamore

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