

7th April 2019 — Passion Sunday Lent 5 — 'He Gave....'

We're now entering Passiontide, the last two weeks before Easter, a time for ever-deeper reflection on the Cross, as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection.

I came across the poem recently, written around the middle of the second century – which I hope might help us in our thinking as we open ourselves to God's love in Jesus at this special time.

The great Creator of the worlds,
The sovereign God of heaven,
His holy and immortal truth
To all on earth hath given.

He sent no angel of his host
To bear his mighty word,
But him through whom the
worlds were made,
The everlasting Lord.

He sent him not in wrath and
power,
But grace and peace to being;
In kindness, as a king might send
His son, himself a king.

He sent him down as sending
God;
In flesh to us he came;
As one with us he dwelt with us,
And bore a human name.

He came as Saviour to his own,
The way of love he trod;
He came to win us by good will,
For force is not of God.

Not to oppress, but summon all
Their truest life to find,
In love God sent his Son to save,
Not to condemn mankind.

(Epistle to Diognetus, 2nd C?, found in 'Love Set Free', Martin L. Smith, p.22)

Blessings,

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

7th April 2019 — Passion Sunday
Lent 5 — 'He Gave...'

COLLECT:

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 126 *(For Morning Prayer)*

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter
and our tongue with songs of joy.
3. Then said they among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
4. The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoiced.
5. Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
as the river beds of the desert.
6. Those who sow in tears
shall reap with songs of joy.
7. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 43:16-21

Isaiah, writing to Jews in Exile, speaks of the coming restoration of God's people

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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 *Mark*

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

Mark 12:41-44

'He Gave...'

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

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 Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
AMEN.

a prayer for the nation

God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



www.churchofengland.org/together

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 :

Gary is away this week, returning in time for the Palm Sunday Services.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 19th. Churches Together Walk of Witness - There will be a short All-Age Service at St Mary's, Fordingbridge at 11.00, then, after a short break, at 11.40, the Walk of Witness leaves the Church and moves to Market Square (by Price's the Butcher) for the Service at 12.00. All welcome to any or all parts of the morning.

ST MARY'S FORDINGBRIDGE : new Readers, Sides-persons or Vergers needed. We would like to encourage you to join one or more of the above teams who keep our services at St Mary's Fordingbridge running smoothly. If you are interested or unsure of what is required please talk to the wardens, clergy or myself. Many thanks, Ann Beynon

AN INVITATION : from Downton Baptist Church, South Lane, SP5 3NA: Saturday 27 April, 9.30 - 12.30 to join them writing letters of encouragement to persecuted Christians and their families. Information, resources & refreshment provided. PLUS: a children's table for children to create cards for the children of prisoners. Contact Pat Bloomfield 837735 if interested.

BISHOP'S COMMISSION FOR MISSION (BCM): In the Partnership we have a number of people who have trained as Lay Worship Leaders or Pastoral Visitors or Children's Workers on the BCM Course - and we'd love more! Two new courses are beginning in the summer, this time at Highcliffe - not too far away.

There is a **Taster Evening** (with no obligation to join afterwards) for any who might be interested on **15th April at St Mark's Highcliffe from 7pm to 8.30pm**. This is open to all and is an opportunity to find out more about the BCM and how it works. Please can you share this information with anyone you think might be interested - and speak to someone from the Ministry Team if you are interested in going. There are more details on the News page of our website.

OPEN SPACE : Saturday April 6th. 11am - 1pm at Slate Cottage, Bridge Street, Fordingbridge. Nicky Davies will give us a talk on Lamentations with regard to the Israel/Palestine conflict.

MICHAELMAS : The next meeting of the Michaelmas group will be on Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Methodist church hall. Our speaker will be Mike Trotman and he will be tackling what sounds like a challenging topic: "Evidence for the Resurrection". Do come and join us.

FORDINGBRIDGE MOTHERS' UNION : We meet on Wednesday April 10th at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Jill Tybjerg whose talk is Kinkizi and Days for Girls.

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 : Two weeks remaining for you to come and enjoy home-made soup etc. on **Wednesday 10th April** and on **Wednesday 17th April, in Holy Week, both from 12 15pm – 1 30pm in St Mary's Church Hall.** We're delighted that Children's Society representative Rev John Houghton will join us at the last lunch in Holy Week, and will be presented with the donation from St Mary's. Martin and Jane Calver

TRADCRAFT at St Mary's Fordingbridge: I will be setting up shop on April 17th at the Lent Lunch in the Church Hall. Thank you for your support, Trudi.

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 :

Open Doors (12 May) and Christian Aid (19 May).

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

THE BRANCH, FORDINGBRIDGE : The Branch, an initiative of New Life Community Church Fordingbridge is opening at 1, The High Street on Saturday 20th April 2019 at 10am-2pm. The Branch will be delivering services such as baby massage, money management workshops and bereavement counselling. It will be a hub for community projects and will offer a selection of books and other merchandise. It will also be used to host other Church activities such as youth work, prayer and social meetings. Contact Nicola Williams or Jo Williams info@thebranchfordingbridge.co.uk

HYDE MOTHERS' UNION : On Tuesday April 9th at 7.30pm. Hyde Mothers' Union are delighted to tell you that they will be enjoying a visit from the Fordingbridge Handbell Ringers. This will undoubtedly be a very special evening and we do hope that you will join us. We shall be meeting in the Community Church Centre.

T.O.F.S.S. (Too Old For Sunday School) will be meeting again after Easter, at 15 Provost Street, at 10.45am, to watch a DVD, discuss it, and to pray. Thursdays 25 April, 23 May, 13 & 27 June. Newcomers welcome. Light refreshments. Further details from John or Pat Bloomfield 837735.

KINKIIZI SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS : If anyone might be interested in going to Kinkiizi for the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Diocese in April/May 2020, these are the brief details-depart Gatwick 28 April, after rest day attend weeklong celebrations finishing with the closing celebrations on Sunday 10 May, travel back, arriving at Gatwick 12 May. Folk in Kinkiizi are already very excited about the Jubilee and are eager to welcome as many of us as possible. Accommodation likely to be in one of 2 Diocesan Guest Houses. Estimated cost around £1000 per person (includes airfare, road travel & accommodation). More information from Gary or Nicky.

GOOGLE REVIEWS : Have you got something good to say about one of our Churches? Could you write a Google Review? Go to Google Maps, find the Church you would like to comment on, and write your Review. The more good reviews we get, the higher our rating, and the more attractive the Churches look to those who are searching for them on the internet. Any questions - ask me. Gary.

WOODGREEN model steam rally and model exhibition : 4th/5th May 2019, 10am to 5pm in Woodgreen Village Hall. Please come and support us, raising money for C.L.A.P.A and Alzheimer's Society. Live steam and model layouts; Arts and crafts in the church; Home made refreshments. Suitable for all the family

REFLECTION : “We plough on with our business, day after day forgetting who we are, until some small breakdown becomes a breakthrough, and we return at last to a place of prayer in the forgotten chambers of the heart”, says Malcolm Guite when he visited St. Fillan's cave, now mostly forgotten but which was once a place of prayer. In our Lent groups we are focusing on prayer. Jesus told us that to pray we should to “go into our room and shut the door to find God in our heart. He often said, ‘I must go to be with my Father’ -usually going up into the hills. He really meant just ‘being’, not necessarily talking and certainly not telling Him what to do! In the Garden of Gethsemane He asked his father to ‘take this cup away but at the same time for strength to ‘do your will, not mine” Our opportunities of listening to God – of just being with him can be when we are walking in the forest, or by the river or just sitting quietly having a cup of tea. Sometimes a line in a song or a hymn will remind us of events which we enjoyed or might have done differently. One of our greatest gift is ‘awareness’.

Daphne Himmel

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Sunday 7	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
April	8.30am	Holy Communion	Breamore
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Hale
	10.45am	Morning Service	Sandleheath
	4.30pm	Youth Space	Hyde

See inside for Lent Group details

Monday 8	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	2.30pm	<i>Funeral—late Pam Mataitis</i>	<i>Fordingbridge</i>
Tuesday 9	9.15am	Alpha Course, The Vicarage	Hyde
	7.00pm	Alpha Course, The Vicarage	Hyde
	7.30pm	Mother's Union, Church Community Centre	Hyde
Wednesday 10	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Prayer Meeting	Frogham Chapel
	11.30am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	12.15pm	Lent Lunch, Church Hall	Fordingbridge
	7.45pm	Meditation Drop In	Fordingbridge
Thursday 11	2.30pm	Mothers' Union, Church Hall	Fordingbridge
	7.30pm	Bell Ringing	Fordingbridge
Friday 12	6.20pm	Choir practice	Fordingbridge
Sunday 14	8.00am	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
April	9.30am	Procession from Hyde School and Holy Communion	Hyde
PALM	10.00am	Palm Sunday Procession from Market Square and ...	Fordingbridge
SUNDAY	10.30am	Palm Sunday Communion for all	Fordingbridge
	10.45am	Morning Service	Sandleheath