

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



2nd May 2021 - Easter 5

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord”

This line in today's psalm perhaps gives us pause for reflection on the pandemic; the problems with climate change; the move towards countries separating from each other and a general feeling that things will never be right again.

We imagine what it was like for the disciples two thousand years ago. We have much to thank them for when we think of how they faithfully followed Jesus, through his Death, Resurrection, Ascension. They were probably not fully understanding but were faithfully believing and so eventually brought the Good News to us today.

In the Gospel Jesus tells John how his Father is the vine and we are the branches and that we cannot flourish without his Father. In our world crisis we might wonder just how to pray. Maybe we feel that if we pray hard enough all will be well - that God will make it all better.

Another way would be to sit quietly and just allow ourselves to feel what it must be like in India and many other places - to feel the desperate grief, real terror and helplessness.

Daphne Himmel

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
2nd May 2021
Easter 5

COLLECT:

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

AMEN.

PSALM 22:25-31 *(For Morning Prayer)*

25. From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
26. The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for
ever.
27. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
And all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
28. For the kingdom is the Lord's
And he rules over the nations.
29. How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,
Or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
30. He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;
This shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
31. They shall come and make known his salvation to a people yet unborn,
Declaring that he the Lord has done it.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8:26-40

Philip baptises a Gentile, whose affirmation of faith is an early form of the creed.

²⁶ An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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 15:1-8

Jesus the vine, whose fruit we are expected to bear.

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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:

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

AMEN.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN Please send all requests for prayer to prayer@avonvalleychurches.org.uk. If you feel able to commit to regular prayer for those on the list and wish to become a prayer partner, please email the above address.



OUT & ABOUT: Sunday, Evensong in Winchester Cathedral for the Installation of an Honorary Canon. **Tuesday**, Meetings, planning and visits. **Wednesday**, Communion at Fordingbridge, meetings in the morning, School Governor Meeting in the afternoon and Hyde PCC/LCC in the evening. **Thursday**, in the morning, Staff Communion and Meeting, On-Line Bible Study, a Burial of Ashes, and in the afternoon/evening, a school assembly on-line, Worship Planning at Hale & Woodgreen and a Deanery Meeting with Burley Parish. **Friday**, visits, meetings and my Friday Trip around the Churches with Partners.

ALLSORTS SERVICE, Sunday 2nd, 10.00, Fordingbridge and On-line. The theme will be '**Marvellous Picnics**', celebrating all the amazing work that has been done with our young people over the past year in the AVC. If you're in Church, a (Covid-Friendly) picnic will be provided. If you're on-line, you might like to bring your breakfast/brunch/picnic with you, and, if you are in one of our other Churches that morning, you can catch up on-line later in the day and bring your picnic with you.

THE (Soon-to-Be) REVD TOM BURDEN: Tom, our new Curate, is moving into the Curate's House in Falconwood Close towards the end of May, continues his final year of training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford (on-line) and will then be ordained Deacon on July 4th in Winchester Cathedral, and begin his ministry in the AVC – more about that later. For now, two things: **HAMPER** – it would be lovely to welcome him with a hamper of goodies (non-perishables, of course). If you'd like to contribute, do bring (or leave) things in Church (clearly marked, otherwise they'll go to the Foodbank!), or on the Rectory doorstep (in a waterproof bag, if it looks like rain) – **by May 16th**.

CLEANING – since the tenants left, some work has been done on the house, and it would be lovely if anyone would like to join me for a house clean on Tuesday, May 18th – hoovering, dusting, toilets/bathroom and windows – pick your favourite (we can have up to six people in the house at a time by then, and we'll need to bring our own cleaning materials, etc.)! Do let me know, directly, or via the Office. Thanks, Gary.

JO HEATH SABBATICAL : Our lovely Youth, Children and Families worker Jo will be taking a sabbatical from 8th May to 12th July. If you would like to speak to anyone regarding Youth, Children's and Family work during this time, please contact the Church Office and they will help point you in the right direction. With every blessing to Jo for her sabbatical.

INFORMAL PRAYER MEETING : **Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 11.00am.** On the first Wednesday of the month, we hold an informal prayer meeting at 11.00am over Zoom, when we pray for individuals and any situation. All are welcome. If you would like us to pray for someone or something, please let either Beverly Judd (01725 512018) or Linda Light (01425 480509) know and we will include you in our prayers. Meeting ID: 820 3950 2539 and Passcode: 487168 and direct link in Partners email.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: The next Zoom Bible Study Group is on Thursday, May 6th, led by Gary, at 10.30am for an hour. We're looking at the II Peter. All welcome. The Zoom details are Meeting ID: 841 3846 2326 Password: 943618

COFFEE AFTER CHURCH: we will be having Zoom Coffee at 11.15am this Sunday (timed to give people time to go home and put the kettle on!) Moving forwards we are planning to have Zoom Coffee on the 1st Sunday of the month (if there are enough people who would like to meet more regularly, and someone is happy to open the Zoom Meeting, that would be great). Meeting ID 646 331 066 Password 123654. Direct link will be in the Partner's email.

ACCESS TO ON-LINE WORSHIP : Our on-line services will continue to be available on our **telephone line**, 01425 543305, charged at your normal local rate. If you want to listen to live or recorded worship, it's usually easier to put your phone onto speakerphone, so you can sit back and enjoy.

AVON VALLEY
COMMUNITY MATTERS



reaching out to all

READY TO ORGANISE A FUNDRAISER? Have you got lots of Fundraising ideas but don't want to be the only one doing anything?! Avon Valley

Community Matters is the charity that organised Easter in a Bag. It now needs help from willing volunteers to get together in small teams to raise much needed funds so that the good work of the charity can continue in the local community. Established events like Messy Church, Open the Book and Holiday at Home all need resources, as do future projects for young people and families. It would be great to have regular fundraising events, both big and small, throughout the year. If you, and maybe a friend or two, are willing to help in this way, or want to know more, please get in touch with **Irene** via the Church Office office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or 01425 653163.

BIN TWINNING : raises funds for Tearfund's global Environmental and Economic Sustainability programme, where local partner organisations in Haiti, Pakistan and Uganda are setting up projects to tackle critical waste management issues in these countries. We would love for Fordingbridge to become the first bin twinned town in the country. During the Saturday Conversation on 1st May at 10am Jo Heath will be talking to Lorraine Kingsley and Wendy Reid, but in the meantime there is lots more information available at www.bintwinning.org or contact the Church Office.

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL - GREAT NEWS: With Covid 19 restrictions lifting, we need to prepare the Church Hall for our own use and especially for use by the community of Hirers. We need to give the hall a deep clean and carry out decorating works, in the entrance hall, kitchen and cloakroom. AND of course, the back wall of the inside of the hall itself needs work to remove the dark stain on the wall. The painting is all emulsion, and water based paint finishes. So it prep and sanding down, first, then applying stain blocker to the back wall and then re-painting. We shall have a tower for the back wall, dust sheets and hard hats. Outside there is weeding, gutter clearing and a series of general maintenance jobs that need doing. **WHEN**, well we would like to start the work on the 17th May, so please if you are able to give us an hour or two, or more, during the couple of weeks, on or after the 17th please ring or e-mail the church office. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Ian and Nigel, Churchwardens.

REFLECTION : What Joy! To be back in church again and to worship in communion with others. There is something unique and wonderful about meeting together in church.

One of the many important things this crisis has taught us is how much we need human contact. (I can't wait till we can hug again.)

Let's cherish these special times together and thank God for bringing us safely home.

Beverly Judd

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TO VISITORS

Contact : Gail Newell or Jackie Rowe, Parish Administrators

Email : office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or call 01425 653163

Website : www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk

This Week - 2nd May 2021 - Easter 5

Online/live streamed services via Facebook, Website or Faith Online and available afterwards on YouTube

Sunday 2 May	8.15am	Holy Communion + streamed	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Morning Service	Breamore
	10.00am	Allsorts - AVC Youth, Children & Families celebration	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Hale
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	11.30pm	Baptisms - James and Harriet Gordon	Fordingbridge

Mon to Fri	10.00am	Thought for the Day	
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Mon 3 9.00am Morning Prayer (Meeting ID: 157 284 292, Password: 764200) On-line (Zoom)

Wed 5 9.00am Morning Prayer (details as Monday) On-line (Zoom)

10.00am Thought for Day & Communion Fordingbridge

7.30pm Hyde PCC/LCC On-line

11.00am Bible Study On-line (Zoom)

12.30pm *Funeral - late Rev Charles Rolfe* *Salisbury*

Thur 6 13.00pm *Funeral - late Rose Marlow* *Hyde*

Sat 8 10.00am The Saturday Conversation On-line

Sunday 9 May	8.15am	Holy Communion	Hyde
	10.00am	Holy Communion	Breamore
	10.00am	Sung Communion + streamed	Fordingbridge
	10.00am	Morning Service	Woodgreen
	10.45am	Morning Service	Sandleheath
	6.00pm	Evensong	Fordingbridge