

PARTNERS

weekly newsletter



19th May 2024 - Pentecost

Jesus said: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1v8).

Being a Christian is not always easy. We are encouraged to worship God, to serve God, to grow as disciples and to be witnesses to those around us. But how can I do those things when I feel so ordinary and unexceptional as a Christian? Well the answer is this, God has given us his Holy Spirit to live within us, and the Spirit empowers us as Christians to live for Christ.

As an illustration let me tell you something that happened this morning. I have high blood pressure and so I have a blood pressure monitor. And so, earlier today I took down my blood pressure monitor and tried to check my results, but there was nothing. The monitor was blank. And so I did the obvious thing; I opened up the back and replaced the batteries and, Hey presto, it worked, and just in case you are interested, my blood pressure was fine.

But the point is this, in order to function properly my little machine needed power, power provided by two AA batteries.

And dear friends, we are much the same.

You see, this coming Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the fact that God has given us his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God living in our hearts and empowering us to grow in our knowledge of God, in our experience of God and in the service that we can offer to God. And for all of those things we need God to dwell in our hearts and to empower us.

And the great news is that God does just that. He has given each of us his Holy Spirit, his presence living within our hearts to lead us and to empower us. And, just like my blood-pressure monitor, anytime that things seem a bit flat, all we have to do is to pray to God and ask him to fill us up again; and God will always say yes to such a request.

So why not ask God today to fill you afresh with his Holy Spirit, and to empower you to live and work for him? Happy Pentecost.

Rev Luke Wickings: Rector of the Avon Valley Churches

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: 19th May 2024

Pentecost

COLLECT:

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PSALM 104:24-36 37b

24. The sun rises and they are gone
To lay themselves down in their dens
25. People go forth to their work
And to their labour until the evening
26. O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
27. There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
28. There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.
29. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
30. When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
31. When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.
32. When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.
33. May the glory of the Lord endure for ever
May the Lord rejoice in his works

34. He looks on the earth and it trembles;
He touches the mountains and they smoke
35. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live
I will make music to my God while I have my being
36. So shall my song please him
While I rejoice in the Lord
37. Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
And the wicked be no more
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2:1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

*At the end, the Reader says:
This is 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 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ²⁶ ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴ I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹² I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

*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.)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Faithful God, you fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Please note the office's new address is 16 The Glasshouse Studios, Fryern Court Road, Fordingbridge. SP6 1QX. The phone number will remain the same but there will be a small delay in connecting it so if possible please only e-mail on office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk. Please also note that there is normally at least one friendly dog here so if you are looking to visit but are not a dog lover please let me know in advance so that they can be put on a lead/ crated. For a limited time only there are some A4 folders and hanging files available that are surplus to requirement. They will be stored in the church hall at Fordingbridge so please let me know if you would like any. Many thanks Zoe

Tea and Tunes. A huge thank you to all who contributed in any way to the event: to the wonderful helpers, those who donated raffle prizes and those who came to support. It was a great team effort to raise £1012 for Church funds. We are very grateful to you all. Barry and Jean

An additional 08.15am BCP Holy Communion service at Fordingbridge:

This will be included on the fourth Sunday of the month with the agreement of the Rector and the LCCs' at Breamore and Fordingbridge. Formerly hosted by St Mary's Breamore, this service is replaced at Breamore by a 10am Common Worship service of Holy Communion with hymns.

I will be having a few **coffee mornings in May** to get to know you all. They will be on each **Wednesday** throughout **May**. It will be an open house from 10am until 12 midday and there will be tea, coffee etc and biscuits and good company. I very much look forward to getting to know you all better. Sarah (71 Church Street 😊)

Parish Fellowship Walk. Now that we seem to have better weather, the **Parish Fellowship Walks** will resume this **Sunday, 19th May at 6pm**, starting at **Hyde Church Car Park**. The walk is circular and takes about 1 hour. It is a walk devised by Jeremy Houghton - Brown and Alan Moore for the local community. Suitable footwear is suggested for gravel tracks, footpaths and roads. Martin Ings.

CARE HOME VISITS. On **Monday 20th May** we will be visiting Fordingbridge Care Home at 11am and Allenbrook Care Home at 2.30pm to provide a short service for the residents and staff. The service lasts less than 30 minutes, and generally comprises three hymns, a reading, a short reflection and prayers. If you would like to join us, especially to help with the singing of three hymns, please meet in the reception at Fordingbridge Care Home at 10.50am and/or at Allenbrook at 2.20pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with the residents and staff at both homes. Thank you. Mary Melbourne (LLM & Anna Chaplain)

SP6 Friendship Group – Our friendship group will be held on **Tuesday 21st May** from 10.00am – 12.00md at the Ship Inn, Fordingbridge High Street. This group is for anyone who is bereaved or lonely and would like a cuppa and a friendly chat. We also organize outings, theatre trips and garden visits. If anyone would like to join us do come.

TOFSS (Too Old For Sunday School) will meet on Wednesday 22 May 10.45am til 12.15pm. at 15 Provost Street, when we will watch an Episode of "The Chosen", discuss and pray. Refreshments. All welcome. Pat Bloomfield (01425 837735)

OPEN GARDENS 25TH-27TH MAY - Nine people/couples have been very busy getting their gardens ready for our next fundraiser. **We really need everyone's help.** If you have yet to pick up a few leaflets from church to drop through your neighbours' doors or give to friends please help us by doing so **in the next few days.** If everyone gives out 4 or 5 that's an extra 200-300 people who will find out. The more money we can raise from visitors the less extra we will need to find between us. Thank you. Mark Ward mark@fordingbridge.com 07833 477834. Margaret and Michael Ireland are among those opening their garden on 26th and 27th of May. They have decided not to offer refreshments to the visitors but Mike will play a chosen song for them on his electric guitar for a donation if they wish.

Spring cleaning time@ St Mary's Church, Hale: We would welcome help from across the AVC to help us make our grade I listed church 'Wedding ready'. There are seven weddings from June through to November. If you can please help on **Sunday 26th May** from midday. We have indoor and outdoor tasks which were recommended in our recent quinquennial report. Bring your own tools/cleaning products if you can. Thank you Lynda Warne and Chris Calder Churchwardens

The PARISH MISSION MATTERS GROUP (PMMG) are meeting on Monday 3 June at 7pm in Godshill. This gathering is open to all with a passion for Christian Mission of any kind. Mark your diary NOW! Further details from Pat B if you haven't been before (07985 938644)

Ruth Crosland - Ordination Sunday June 30th at 10am at **Winchester Cathedral**. You are all welcome to join Ruth at this very special event. After the service light refreshments will be served in a hotel close to the Cathedral. To enable Ruth to collect numbers it would be helpful to advise **Zoe at the Parish Office** (office@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or 01425 653163)or Ruth (07855 210769 or Ruth.Crosland@avonvalleychurches.org.uk) if you plan to attend. Please can you put "June 30th" in the heading/subject line. As parking is at a premium on Sundays in Winchester transport may be available from Fordingbridge, departure time approx.. 8.15am and a return to Fordingbridge at approx. 5pm. Anticipated approximate cost £18 per person. Please also indicate whether you wish to have a seat.

Woodgreen steam rally and model railways: Charlie and Lynda would like to thank everyone who supported us this year in any way. From advertising and printing, baking and moving items, working in the kitchen and on the door, and the inevitable packing away after. We could not have done it without you. It was so nice to see friends from last year and welcome our visitors, and see so many happy people, young and old. We raised an amazing £1,780 for Spires Smiles, Alzheimer's Society and St Mary's, Haleroof fund. Thank you all.

We are a small happy band of ladies on the **Fordingbridge Flower Rota** but would love to have some more help if you would be interested in joining us. The more the merrier as they say. Contact Helen Tague at thetagues@fordingbridge.com or telephone 01425 655462. Thank you.

ITEMS FOR PARTNERS need to be sent to the Church Office (e-mail address below) by 5.00p.m. on **Tuesdays**. Please put 'Partners' in the e-mail subject line. Thank you, Zoe

Reflection

During this morning's service my mind was temporarily diverted from John's excellent sermon by Graham Fry getting up from his chair. I was worried that Graham was unwell but typically he was thinking of someone else and went to get a glass of water for John who was having a small problem with his voice. The glass was standing on the altar after the sermon, and I was reminded by it of the disturbing report that I had heard the evening before from Gaza of people being told to leave Rafah to go to a safer place near the sea. It almost sounds a pleasant prospect. The report went on to say that many of these poor people had already been moved from their homes and moved again, some of them four or five times, their homes, lives and families shattered. The report also said that there was no infrastructure set up to receive them and they would not even have water.

At one stage in my life, I found myself homeless with no job and four children. It was not even slightly close to the situation that I have just been talking about, as we had arranged for my parents to provide us with shelter, love, and care until we were able to pick ourselves up and start again. It was however very worrying.

I cannot begin to imagine what it must be like for a family with young children to be unable to even provide their children with such a basic necessity as water to drink.

I am not stupid enough to express my opinion as to who is to blame for the awful chaos in Gaza. Sadly, there are other many other places where things are equally bad. Of course there are people to blame, but it is always the ordinary people on both sides who suffer. So much suffering.

There, but for the grace of God go you or I.

Nigel Spratt

CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN TO VISITORS between 10.00 am and 12.00

Contact via Email : Office@AvonValleyChurches.org.uk or call 01425 653163 between 10.00 am and 12.00 or leave a message Website : www.AvonValleyChurches.org.uk

Rector -Rev Luke Wickings. Contact via Email rector@avonvalleychurches.org.uk or call 01425 839937 / 07983 398984. Please note Luke's day off is Friday

Pentecost

19th May 2024

**Online services available via Facebook or Website
at 'Avon Valley Churches'**

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|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday | 8.15 am | Fordingbridge | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 19th May | 10.00 am | Breamore | Matins |
| | 10.00 am | Fordingbridge | Morning Service |
| | 10.00 am | Hale | Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Hyde | Informal Service |
| | 10.45 am | Sandleheath | Morning Service |
| Wed 22nd | 10.00 am | Frogham Chapel | Informal Communion |
| Sunday | 8.15 am | Fordingbridge | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 26th May | 10.00 am | Breamore | Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Fordingbridge | Sung Holy Communion |
| | 10.00 am | Hyde | Holy Communion followed by Study and lunch |
| | 10.00 am | Woodgreen | Holy Communion |
| | 10.45 am | Sandleheath | Methodist Service |
| | 6.00 pm | Fordingbridge | Sung Evensong |

Readings for Sunday 26th May: Ps. 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17