



Four Beautiful Churches - Three Parishes – One in Christ

Meon Bridge Benefice Pew News
2nd Sunday – 10th September 17 – Trinity 13

Services this week

Second Sunday 10Sep17 Trinity 13 (Proper XVIII)	8.00 am	Meonstoke	Holy Communion (BCP) Black Book p.229 Readings: Romans 13.8–end; Matthew 18.15–20
	10.30 am	Droxford	Holy Communion (CW); Black Book p.166; EP: B p.188 263: Lord, enthroned 178: Thy kingdom come: 262: Alleluia, sing to Jesus 261: Once, only once 198: Ye holy angels bright Readings: Romans 13.8–end; Matthew 18.15–20
	6.30 pm	Corhampton	Evensong: Black Book p.72 Ps 108; Ez 12.21–13.16; Acts 19.1–20
Tues 12Sep17	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer Pss 123, 124, 125, 126; Prov 25.1–14 Mark 8.11–21
Weds 13Sep17	8.30 am	Meonstoke John Chrysostom,	Morning Prayer Ps 119.153–end; Prov 26.12–end; Mark 8.27–9.1
	5 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer Ps 136; 2 Sam 19.8b–23; Acts 11.19–end
	7 pm	Meonstoke Holy Cross	Festal Eucharist 716 We have a gospel to proclaim 644 The head that once was crowned with thorns 394 Lift high the cross 626 Take up thy cross 382 Let all the world Num 21.4–9; Phil 2.6–11; John 3.13–17
Thurs 14Sep17 Holy Cross	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 Num 21.4–9; Phil 2.6–11; John 3.13–17





Harvest Festivals

Exton:

3.30 pm, 17th Sept 17 – Harvest Evensong followed by tea

Meonstoke:

10.30 am, 1st Oct 17 – Family Communion with a talk from Tear Fund followed by delicious treats

Droxford:

10.30 am, 8th Oct 17 – Family Communion followed by delicious treats

Other Events in the Diary:

4Sep17	6 pm	Choral Evensong	Portsmouth Cathedral
7Sep17	2.30 pm	Funeral of Molly Farnell	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
13Sep17	9.15 am	Churchwardens' Meeting	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
13Sep17	7pm	Festal Eucharist – Holy Cross	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
17Sep17	3.30 pm	Harvest Festival	Ss Peter & Paul, Exton
		Evensong followed by tea.	
	6.30 pm	Songs of Praise	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
18Sep17	7.30 pm	PCC (preceded by HC)	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
19Sep17	7.30 pm	PCC (preceded by HC)	Ss Peter & Paul, Exton
24Sep17	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Ss Peter & Paul, Exton
		President and Preacher, the Ven Gavin Collins, Archdeacon	
26Sep17	7.00 pm	PCC (preceded by HC)	St Mary & All Saints, Droxford
27Sep17	7.00 pm	Archdeaconry Consultation	St John the Evangelist, Fareham
28Sep17	7.00 pm	Soiree on the Bridge	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
1Oct17	10.30	Harvest Festival	St Andrew's, Meonstoke
		preacher from Tear Fund	
	14.40	'The FOMS PROMS	The Meon Hall (£5)
7Oct17		Droxford Village Harvest Supper	Droxford Village Hall
8Oct17	10.30	Harvest Festival	St Mary & All Saints, Droxford

The Feast of the Holy Cross

What are these Christians about, exalting an instrument of torture?

We are rejoicing that something so terrible an instrument of torture and death has been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race.

We, also, remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract spirituality. It is a sure faith, springing from God's direct intervention in the world: a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorise and theologise all we like; but all our theorising and theological thoughts are nothing without the history on which they are based. If you take away that history, you take away the Cross and Christ with it, and Christianity becomes nonsense.

In the ruins of Pompeii, destroyed in 79 AD, there is a room with an altar-like structure against one wall, and over the altar the appearance of the plaster shows that a cross-shaped object had been nailed to the wall.

Justin Martyr, referred to the cross as a standard Christian symbol, but not explicitly to tracing the sign of the cross as a devotional gesture, in a letter (c. 150 AD) to the Emperor Antoninus.

Tertullian, writing around 211 AD, said that Christians seldom do anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

During the reign of Constantine, his mother Helena went to Israel and there searched for places especially significant to Christians. The Romans had themselves built pagan shrines over many of these sites. Having located what the local people and she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial, she then had built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre over them, which was dedicated on 14 September 335.

It has become a day for recognizing the Cross (in a festal atmosphere that would be inappropriate on Good Friday) as a symbol of triumph, as a sign of Christ's victory over death, and a reminder of His promise, "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

The Cross is the personal mark of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it as a sign that we belong to Him at Baptism and many of us make the sign of the Cross at other times to remind us of his presence.

Most of us assume that we know what a cross looks like, that it is two beams of wood fastened together at right angles. However, occasionally some claim otherwise.

Greek and Roman ships had a square sail, and a vertical mast with a horizontal spar across it to hold the top of the sail. This arrangement in Roman literature has been described cross shaped. Romans understood the shape of a cross to be two beams at right angles, not just a vertical beam, and their carpenters would have been able to construct such an arrangement.

COLLECT

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace:

grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake;

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

[XIII Jesus' body is taken down from the cross](#)

His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Now on this cross his body breathes no more
Here at the centre everything is still
Spent, and emptied, opened to the core.
A quiet taking down, a prising loose
A cross-beam lowered like a weighing scale
Unmaking of each thing that had its use
A long withdrawing of each bloodied nail,
This is ground zero, emptiness and space
With nothing left to say or think or do
But look unflinching on the sacred face
That cannot move or change or look at you.
Yet in that prising loose and letting be
He has unfastened you and set you free.



from '[Sounding the Seasons; seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year, Canterbury Press 2012](#)'

Malcolm Guite

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2016/09/14/holy-cross-day-some-sonnets-on-the-cross>



Meon Valley Food Bank - PLEASE HELP

Thank You for all your donations, but stocks of tinned food are falling especially low as more and more people seek the help of the Meon Valley Food Bank.

The items needed for the coming week are packet rice, porridge, jellies, Angel Delights, washing up liquid and squash. Thank you.

For Your Prayers

In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life. In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Bishop, Christopher Foster, and all those listed in the Daily Prayer Guide (<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/news-and-events/prayer-diary>).

We pray for those going on holiday, for their rest, recuperation and re-creation, and their safe return. For those going to new schools, colleges or universities in the weeks ahead. For the upcoming academic year and for our celebration of Education Sunday (17th September in the Droxford Informal Service at 10 am).

For the next phase of our LyCiG process and for our growth as a Benefice in spiritual depth and theological understanding, growth in our servanthood to the community and beyond, and growth in numbers and for our planning.

We continue to pray for those preparing for baptism including August Hodgson and Harry Voice, and the recently baptised including Will Channon, Riley Channon, Chris Pike and Alec Pike, and those contemplating confirmation.

We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Ghana, especially in the Diocese of Wiaswo in western Ghana and linked to our deanery.

We pray for our local Street Pastors on the streets of Portsmouth.

For the recently married: Grant Woolner & Clemency Pepys; William Easterbrook & Bridget Miles; Ian Whitear & Linda Creese; Joseph Dewhurst & Jessica Weeks; Tom Fleming & Charlotte Symes; and for those to be married in September: Chris Savory & Olivia Curtis; and, all those preparing for marriage later this year, including Joseph Leonard & Emily Harris. We pray for the newly born babies and for their parents.

For all those grieving and in any kind of sickness or need, including those in hospital or nursing homes, awaiting test results or treatment, and all those limited by degenerative conditions of all kinds.

We pray for the world: the victims of hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides and floods; for those displaced by virtue of creed or colour, especially the Rohingya, those attacked by Boko Haram, victims of torture in Egypt and Yazidi women fleeing IS abuse; the desperate suffering in the Yemen.

We pray for the recently departed, including 'Dick' Mainwaring and Molly Farnell, and for all those whom we love but see no longer; and, those in the Year's Mind. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and light perpetual shine upon them. May the rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Worship Update

Morning & Evening Prayer: In addition to our short Wednesday morning service of prayer on Wednesdays at Meonstoke, we are proposing to gather at Exton at 8.30 am on Tuesdays and at Droxford at 5 pm on Wednesdays. Do join us for about 30 minutes of readings and prayer.

Autumn Changes to Evening Services

The evening services at Corhampton and Meonstoke on the second and third Sundays of the month have been under review since last January and following the review of attendance and also what people have told us through the LyCiG consultations, we have decided to try a few new things on a trial basis from September to December. We plan to keep most things but adjust the frequency and introduce a new service of a reflective character ('Reflections') and a joyous service praise through song (Songs of Praise).

The service of Evensong at Exton on the first Sunday remains unaffected, although the PCC have moved the Harvest Festival from the first Sunday in September to the third by popular request.

Month	Date	Sunday	Time	Service	Location
September	3 rd	1 st Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong	Exton
	10 th	2 nd Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong	Corhampton
	17 th	3rd Sunday	3.30 pm	Harvest Evensong	Exton
	17 th	3 rd Sunday	6.30 pm	Songs of Praise	Meonstoke
October	1 st	1 st Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong	Exton
	8 th	2 nd Sunday	6.30 pm	'Reflections'	Corhampton
	15 th	3 rd Sunday	6.30 pm	Taizé	Meonstoke
November	5 th	1 st Sunday	6.30 pm	'All Souls' Evensong	Exton
	12 th	2 nd Sunday	3.30 pm	Village Remembrance	Exton
	12 th	2 nd Sunday	6.30 pm	Remembrance Evensong	Corhampton
	19 th	3 rd Sunday	No evening service		
December	3 rd	1 st Sunday	3.30 pm	Evensong	Exton
	3 rd	1 st Sunday	6.30 pm	Advent Carols	Droxford
	10 th	2 nd Sunday	3.30 pm	Evensong with Carols	Corhampton

Christmas Services will have their own special pattern as always.

A Date for Your Diary

Annual Archdeaconry Consultation:

LIVE | PRAY | SERVE

7pm, Wednesday 27th September

St John the Evangelist, Fareham
(PO14 1DN).

Portsmouth Diocese has a blueprint to guide us in the future
and it can be summed up in just three words:

LIVE | PRAY | SERVE.

LIVE | PRAY | SERVE will be our motto as we seek to equip people to **live** as disciples of Christ; to **pray**, individually and together as worshipping communities; and to **serve** our local neighbourhoods and society together.

The Diocese is hosting a consultation with all the parishes of the Meon Archdeaconry. Providing us with a good opportunity to explore how we can respond to:

LIVE | PRAY | SERVE.

All members of our PCCs and all mission-minded parishioners are encouraged to attend and hear about, and to discuss and explore all about

LIVE PRAY SERVE.

CONTACT DETAILS

<http://www.bridgechurches.org.uk/>

RECTOR: Fr Tony Forrest (01489)877422 rector.meonbridge@btinternet.com
usual rest day is Monday.

CURATE: The Revd Samantha Martell, 232041 RevSamantha@alpha-omega.me,
Usual rest day is Friday

Assistant Priest: The Rev'd Canon Anthony Hulbert 878289

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Reader: Cathy Mathews 877804

Reader emeritus: Pauline Quarendon 877392

CHURCH WARDENS

DROXFORD: Ann Symes 877643 & Sheila Matthissen 877867

EXTON: Hugh Parry 878860 & Richard Pepys 878035

MEONSTOKE WITH CORHAMPTON: Angela Peagram 878725
and Ruth Shipley 878436

WEDDINGS: Mrs Sue Wells 01329 834130 - sjwells@meonwood.co.uk

Services Next week

Third Sunday 17Sep17 Trinity 14 (Proper XIX)	8.00 am	Exton Readings:	Holy Communion (BCP), p.229 Romans 14.1–12; Matthew 18.21–35
	09:45	Droxford	Informal Service Education Sunday
	10.30 am	Corhampton Hymns (AMNS) Choir Readings:	Mattins (BCP); Black Book p.62 207: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; 182: Let saints on earth; 217: Be thou my guardian; 205: Now thank we all our God Ps 103.1–13; Gen 50.15–21; Rom 14.1–12
	3.30pm	Exton Hymns: (AMNS)	Harvest Festival 289: Come, ye faithful people; 370: God, whose farm is all creation 288: Praise, O praise our God and King; 290: We plough the fields and scatter Ps 65; Deut 8.7-18; Luke 17.11-19
	6.30 pm	Meonstoke	Songs of Praise



Tues 19Sep17 Theodore	8.30 am	Exton	Morning Prayer Psalms 5, 6; Wis 2; Mark 10.1–16
Weds 20Sep17 John Coleridge Patteson	8.30 am	Meonstoke	Morning Prayer Ps 119.1–32; Wis 3.1–9; Mk 10.17–31
	5 pm	Droxford	Evening Prayer Pss 11-13; 1 Kings 3; Acts 14.8–end
Thurs 21Sep17 Matthew	10 am	Droxford	Holy Communion p.1/ 166; Euch Prayer: E p.30/ 196 Prov 3.13–18; 2 Cor 4.1–6; Mat 9.9–13

