

The Benefice of the Piddle Valley,
Hilton and Ansty,
Cheselbourne and Melcombe Horsey



Pew Sheets – Please take home

Sunday 28th October – Simon and Jude

28th after Trinity/Proper 25

Altar Colour – Red

Psalm 119: 89-96

OT Reading: Isaiah 28: 14-16

Collect: Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

One in Christ

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Comment: This passage reveals that in Paul's mind, the formation of the church of Christ lies close to, if not at the very centre of, God's purposes in the gospel. Two astonishing things happen at the cross. Firstly, Jesus destroys the hostility and enmity, which exists between men everywhere (although, here, Paul has the hostility between Jew and Gentile particularly in view). Secondly, we see that the cross is the means by which Christ creates a new kind of people, the church.

John 15:17-27 (ESV)

The Hatred of the World

These things I command you, so that you will love one another. "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I

said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Comment: The principal Subject in the passage which is to be before us is the world's hostility against Christ and His people. Its hatred is mentioned seven times—solemn witness to its awful entirety and inveteracy. The transition from the preceding section is quite natural and easy. The Lord had been speaking to and of "his own;" now He contemplates "the world." He had just declared that His disciples are His friends; now He turns to describe His and their enemies. He had set before the apostles the proofs of His love for them; now He warns them of the world's hatred. The connection between the last verse of the previous section and the opening one of our present portion is most significant. "These things I command you, that ye love one another." Various motives had been presented for them loving one another, chief among them being the example of His own wondrous love. Now an entirely new and different reason is advanced: Christians need to be united together by the bonds of brotherly affection because the world, their common enemy, hated them. A loving heart would feign discover or induce love everywhere. To be ungratified in that desire and more than that, to be hated, is a hard and bitter lot, the bitterest ingredient in all affliction. Therefore does the Lord here faithfully prepare His disciples for such an experience, that they might not marvel at the world's hostility nor be stumbled by it—"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you". In western society, many of the values had been framed by a Christian civilisation, but that heritage is coming to an end, and increasingly there is a widening of a gulf between Christian morality and the world, and once again Christians may find themselves hated by the world for not accepting the values of those who wish to radically alter society as we have known it.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks that your glory is revealed in St Simon, St Jude and all the saints. In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ. In their holiness we find encouragement and hope. In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.

Post Communion: Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

St Simon and St Jude: On the various New Testament lists of the Twelve Apostles (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16; Acts 1:13), the tenth and eleventh places are occupied by Simon the Zealot (also called Simon the "Cananean," the Aramaic word meaning "Zealot") and by Judas of James, also called Thaddaeus or Lebbaeus. ("Judas" in New Testament contexts corresponds to "Judah" in Old Testament. Some ancient Christian writers say that Simon and Jude went together as missionaries to Persia, and were martyred there. If this is true, it explains, to some extent, our lack of historical information on them and also why they are usually put together. The legend is that St Simon preached in Egypt, Mauritania (Spain), and Libya, leaving behind him the fertile hills of Galilee, where he had been engaged in the healthful cultivation of the vineyards and olive gardens. He later re-joined his brother, St Jude, in Persia, where they laboured and died together. At first they were respected by the king, for they had manifested power over two ferocious tigers who had terrorized the land. With the king, sixty thousand Persians became Christians, and churches rose over the ruins of the idolatrous temples, however as a result idolaters fell on the Apostles and massacred them.



Prayers

Please pray: For the sick, for those suffering from long term illness, for those continuing to receive hospital treatment including:

Colin Webb, Anna Webb, Meg Gray, Ted, Michelle Simpson, Ann Lambert, Rev'd Deb Smith, Rev'd Benny Hazlehurst. Betty - Hillary and Jane.

For your Rector Fr. Roger, For Rev'd Helier, and our laity;
For all those returning to school after the half term break;
For those who are suffering, who are lonely, the bereaved,
and the many carers in our community.

What's going on around the Benefice!

Thursday 1st November: 9am All Saint's Day Communion @ Alton Pancras plus coffee after with the Rector.

Thursday 1st November: 9.30am Morning Prayer @ Piddlehinton with Alan Neades. This is a weekly service.

Stepping Stones Home Group meets twice a month on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, at Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham. **All Welcome.** For next meeting date & further details please telephone Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585

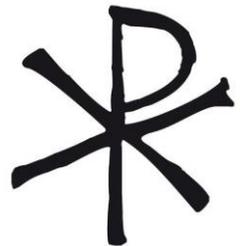
Services for Next Sunday.

<u>1st November</u> Thursday All Saints & All Souls	<u>9.00am Communion</u> <u>& Coffee with the Rector</u> At Alton Pancras	
<u>4th November</u> All Saints/All Souls Altar Colour - White Psalm 33: 1-5 Isaiah 56: 3-8 Hebrews 12: 18-24 Matthew 5: 1-12	<u>8.30am Holy Communion</u> At Alton Pancras <u>9.30am Valley Family Service</u> At Piddlehinton <u>11.00am Baptism (Jackson)</u> At Piddletrenthide	<u>10.30am Baptism (Sealey)</u> <u>Songs of Praise</u> At Hilton <u>11.00am Morning Prayer</u> At Melcombe Horsey <u>6.00pm Evening Prayer</u> At Cheselbourne

**Rector – Rev'd Fr. Roger J. Butcher, The Vicarage,
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THE
WEEK
AHEAD