

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

Pew Sheets – Please take home

Sunday 18th November
2nd Sunday before advent
Altar Colour – Green



Psalm 16

OT Reading Daniel 12:1-3

Collect: Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 (ESV)

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

The Full Assurance of Faith

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Comment 10:11-18: “The author of this theological essay or series of sermons clinches his argument regarding the supremacy of Christ by appealing to his audience to hold on to their faith. He urges them to encourage one another to love and do good as they wait for Christ’s return because Christ has made the perfect sacrifice for their salvation and has been exalted to the right hand of God.” However much the downgrading of Jewish sacrificial practices may appeal to the Christian mind, Jews did not necessarily feel that the sacrifices of their priests were ineffective. In fact, the Pharisees adopted such meticulous attitude toward ritual because they believed that the worship of the temple “did” have the intended effect of bringing them closer to God. Jesus enraged them not only because he included notorious sinners in God’s kingdom, but because he, for the most part, disregarded the appropriate sacrifices which would show their true repentance. Jesus did not necessarily object to sacrifices, but regarded them as aspects of temporal piety in contrast to the more adequate, eternal relationship with God which he offered. The author of Hebrews regarded them as inadequate too. All that God requires, even in the Hebrew Torah, is absolute obedience. This Jesus accomplished by his death on the cross. Having done so, God accepted this perfect offering and exalted Jesus in the resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God. Verse 14 points out the universal effect of his sacrifice: it makes humans holy, i.e. sanctify them. Paul would have used the legal term justification, making sinners right with God, for this effect. This writer did not separate justification and sanctification. Verses 9-25 carries the argument still further. Appropriation of the benefit of Christ’s sacrifice, i.e. bring about a perfect relationship with God, rests on a steadfast response of faith. Recalling the rituals on the Day of Atonement, the author likens the effect of Christ’s sacrifice and the Christians’ response to the renewal of the divine-human relationship the temple liturgy was intended to effect. The results of this atonement will show in the way Christians continue to love and do good deeds which reflect the divine love which has sanctified them. They were also meet together for worship and mutual encouragement, all the more so because they expected Christ’s return very soon. There may be recollections of Paul’s thinking in these final exhortations to faith, hope and love. Paul might not have added “good works” as this writer did. The author was “a sacramentalist on a grand scale” in that he was steeped in liturgics of Israel and regarded the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ as “the ultimate supreme sacrament”, yet he had very little to say about either the Christian sacraments or Christian liturgy. Nor was he a strong ethicist despite knowing that the essence of the Christian ethic is love. He used the word agapé, here, but this is one of the only two times he did. (See also 6:10.) His sole interest was in the extended analogy he drew between the high priestly role and sacrifice of Christ and rituals of Judaism.

Mark 13:1-8 (ESV)

Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple

And as Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” Signs of the Close of the Age. And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

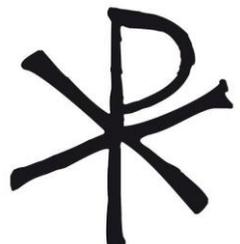
Comment: In spite of the long quotation attributed to Jesus, this chapter may well consist of the teaching of the early church in which are imbedded actual words of Jesus about his return. The incident reported in this passage became the obvious setting for these instructions about what would happen and how believers should act when the time comes. Herod the Great had spent so much money and taxed the people so heavily to reconstruct the temple, that it must have had a startling effect on these Galileans if they had just seen it for the first time. Even today, the site is magnificent although much altered by the total destruction of the temple in the 1st and 2nd centuries and the extensive construction of the area by the Moslems in 7th and 16th centuries. The only remaining element of the temple is the massive stone wall on the western side of the site, the Western Wall, where Jews and tourists alike gather daily by the thousands to pray. So when Jesus prophesied its destruction, this would have seemed laughable at the time – someone not to be taken seriously. Again as in the Daniel reading, is a trust in the justice of God, who will put all things right, in the end.

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Find us on Facebook and www.piddlevalleybenefice.com





Prayers

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

Colin & Ruth Webb, Anna, & Sarah Webb, Meg & Roger Gray, Ted, Michelle Simpson, Ann Lambert, Chrissie Combes, June Kellaway, Betty - Hillary and Jane, Rev'd Deb Smith, Rev'd Benny Hazlehurst, Mel and their children.

For your Rector Fr. Roger, For Rev'd Helier, and our laity;
 For those who are suffering, and those who are lonely,
 For the many carers in our community,
 For those who are half way through their first university term and may be missing home and for those at home who miss them;
 For all those who have depart this earthly life;

Post Communion: Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

The Blessing: Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

What's going on around the Benefice!



Thursday 21st & 22nd November: Fr. Roger is away at the obligatory Rural Clergy Residential. Urgent messages can be left on the Vicarage Answer machine, which Ginny will pick up.

Thursday 22nd 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.** Next meeting 20th November; please telephone Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585

Services for Next Sunday

<p><u>25th November 2018</u> Christ the King Altar Colour – White Psalm 93 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37</p>	<p><u>9.30am Joint Family Eucharist</u> with Piddletrenthide * at Alton Pancras (CW)</p> <p><u>6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer</u> At Piddlehinton (BCP)</p>	<p><u>8.30am Holy Communion</u> At Cheselbourne (BCP)</p> <p><u>6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer</u> At Hilton (BCP)</p>
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