

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

Sunday 30th December 2018

1st Sunday of Christmas

Altar Colour – White/Gold



Psalm 148

1 Sam 2: 18-20, 26

Collect: Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

Put on the new self.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

COMMENT: The heart of Christian worship and ethics, wrote Paul, is to create loving relationships – with God, with other people, and with God's creation. To make his point more vividly, Paul introduces a metaphor about putting on new clothes. It is often said that in the early church newly baptized Christians were dressed in new, white robes as a symbol of the new life Christ had given them. Another metaphor of the indwelling Christ brings out the spiritual growth that comes from worshipping and witnessing within the Christian fellowship.

Luke 2:41-52 (ESV)

The Boy Jesus in the Temple.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

COMMENT: In much the same way that he drew from Hannah's Song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10 for a model of Mary's Song in Luke 1:46-55, Luke elaborated on the story of Samuel's growth under Eli's tutelage in the Old Testament passage 1 Samuel 2:18-26. However, this story should not be interpreted as Jesus' bar mitzvah, a practice developed in rabbinical Judaism no earlier than the 15th Century AD. Luke clarifies for his readers that Jesus was a very human person as well as having unusual spiritual insight and at least an elementary awareness of his divine mission. The portrait we have here is of a headstrong adolescent who disappeared from the company of Galilean pilgrims as they left Jerusalem after the Passover festival. He went missing for three days, a terrifyingly long time for his anxious parents. They finally found him in the temple questioning the learned scholars about spiritual matters. Naturally, Mary rebuked him, as all mothers would. Instead of submitting to her rebuke, he answered her back. The distance between the boy and his parents was already widening, in spite of Mary's treasuring of this memorable experience. Who was this child-man who so mystified them? Here was the one in whom God himself dwelt!

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks because, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he took our nature upon him and was born of the Virgin Mary his mother, that being himself without sin, he might make us clean from all sin.

Post Communion: Heavenly Father, who's blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



Benefice Prayer Requests.

Please continue to pray for:

Colin Webb who is recovering at home from surgery and for his family,
Ruth, Anna, & Sarah, Meg & Roger Gray.

Please pray for June Kellaway who is recovering from surgery in hospital.

For Robin & Victoria Maslin and their two children.

For Fay Lord, Ted, Michelle Simpson, Ann Lambert, Chrissie Combes,
Betty – Hillary and Jane, Rev'd Deb Smith.

Requiescant in pace

Graham Keen, of Piddlerenthide - Please pray for Janet and the family.
Rev'd Benny Hazlehurst, of Cheselbourne - Please pray for Mel, Iona and Isaac.

Funeral details to be confirmed.

What's going on around the Benefice!

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Thursday 3rd January: 9.30am

Morning Prayer @ Piddlehinton with Alan Neades. This is a weekly service.

Thursday 3rd January: 9am

Morning Prayer @ Cheselbourne, plus coffee after with the Rector.

<u>6th January 2019</u>	<u>Epiphany</u>	
<i>Altar Colour - White</i>	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	at Alton Pancras
Isaiah 60: 1-6	9.30am Valley Family Service *	at Piddlehinton
Psalms 72: 10-15	11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)	at Piddletrenthide
Ephesians 3: 1-12	10.30am Songs of Praise *	at Hilton
Matthew 2: 1-12	11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)	at Melcombe Horsey
	6.00pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	at Cheselbourne
	<i>* Refreshments and fellowship after the service</i>	

Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at the services in January.



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