

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

Sunday 9th December 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

Altar Colour – Purple



Collect: O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Canticle: Benedictus

Baruch 5 or Mal 3: 1-4

Phil. 1: 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6

Philippians 1:3-11 (ESV)

Thanksgiving and Prayer

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Comment: Tried and imprisoned for his work as an apostle, Paul thanked God for the support of the Philippians. It would appear that they had been in touch with him during his trial and imprisonment (vs.7). He wrote of them “sharing” the gospel and God’s grace reflecting his close association with them and their response to his ministry during at least three visits. (See Acts 16:12; 2 Cor. 2:3; Acts

20:6). Partnership in the gospel involves not only a gift, but a task. Paul then prayed that this will bring forth an overflowing of love and holy living as they waited for the anticipated return of Christ. This, Paul believed, would produce “knowledge and full insight to help you determine what is best.” (verse 9) In other words, love, the supreme gift of the Spirit, would lead to spiritual growth and moral discernment, all to the glory and praise of God. This is an appropriate mandate for any congregation in our own time as it was for the Philippians in the 1st century AD.

Luke 3:1-6 (ESV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Comment: The introductory stories of the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus completed, Luke skips over nearly three decades to place John the Baptist’s ministry, and hence Jesus, in a specific historical context. The 15th year of the reign of Tiberius corresponds to AD 28-29. The Roman imperial government during this period included Pontius Pilate as governor of Judea and the named tetrarchs, Herod Antipas, Philip, Lysanias, of other nearby Roman provinces. The term tetrarch usually referred to a ruler whom Rome appointed over a limited territory who might or might not be a petty monarch. They had little power or purpose other than to maintain a watch for any threats against Roman sovereignty. By also naming the high-priesthoods of Annas and Caiaphas, Luke gave a religious context to this historical note. The gospel tradition he was about to relate was no minor event. It had both political and religious significance. By quoting from Isaiah 40, Luke recognized John as someone even more important than another of Israel’s great prophets. He defined John’s role in the life and ministry of Jesus as that of the one of whom that earlier prophet spoke: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” More significantly, he placed Jesus expressly within the sacred tradition of Israel.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death and to make us inheritors of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may with joy behold his appearing, and in confidence may stand before him.

Post Communion: Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes 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.**



Prayers

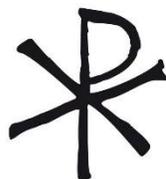
Please continue to pray for:

Colin, Ruth, Anna, & Sarah Webb, Meg & Roger Gray, Robin & Victoria Maslin and their two children, 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.

Please pray for our village schools of Cheselbourne and Piddle Valley, for the teachers and support staff, parents and children.

Please pray for those who are lonely, the bereaved.

**Rector – Rev'd Fr. Roger J. Butcher, The Vicarage,
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Find us on Facebook and www.piddlevalleybenefice.com**



THE WEEK AHEAD

What's going on around the Benefice!

Thursday 13th December 9.30am:

Midweek Communion, Coffee and a Chat with the Rector @ St Mary's Piddlehinton – All Welcome

Friday 14th December Advent Evening Prayer:

6pm at Hilton & 6pm at Piddletrenthide.

Friday 14th December Extraordinary APCM (2017):

After Advent Evening prayer –Piddletrenthide with Plush PCC

Stepping Stones Home Group: meets twice a month on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, at Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham. Please telephone Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585 for next meeting date and further information.

All Welcome.

Piddle Valley School: The School urgently require foundation governors – please speak to the Rector for more information about this position.

Food Bank: All churches in the benefice should now have a food bank box, please donate a packet/tin a week to help those who need assistance over the winter months please. We are supporting Dorchester and Blandford Food Banks.



Services for Next Sunday 16th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Altar Colour – Purple

Psalm 146: 4-end

Zeph. 3: 14-end

Phil. 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18

8.30am Holy Communion at All Saints, Piddletrenthide

9.30am Family Eucharist at St Martin's Cheselbourne

11.00am Parish Communion at St Mary's Piddlehinton

11.00am Horsey Half Hour at St Andrew's Melcombe Horsey

6.00pm Combined Benefices Carol Service at Milton Abbey