



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

Sunday 13th January 2019 – Baptism of Christ
Altar Colour – White/Gold

Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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.**

Acts 8:14-17 (ESV)

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Comment: The Philip of the passage immediately preceding this story (8:4-12) who baptised the converts is not one of the Apostles, but a deacon and evangelist. He was one of several Greek-speaking Christians appointed to help the apostles. (Acts 6:1-6) He had been forced to flee from Jerusalem after the death of his fellow evangelist, Stephen. This brief note points to a subtle development in the early church's understanding of baptism and the special role of the Apostles, and their successors the Bishops and Presbyters. Theologically, Baptism may be performed by any Christian, although in the regular practice of the Church, this is undertaken by an authorised person, usually a Priest or Deacon. Confirmation on the other-hand, in the historic Church, has been restricted to Bishops and Priests. In the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, a Bishop may Confirm, or a Priest may Confirm but with oil blessed by a Bishop (Chrismation). In the Anglican Church, this is restricted to a Bishop.



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Luke 3:1-17, 21-22 (ESV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Comment: Luke gives a much briefer account of Jesus' baptism than do the other gospels. It seems little more than an ending to his narrative about the ministry of John the Baptist. The essential details are the same. Luke records the actual baptism, the descent of the Spirit as a dove, and the divine blessing. There are, however, some significant aspects to this brief narrative. Baptism was common in the Jewish tradition and ritual bathing had great symbolic meaning for priests, Levites and Pharisees. If you were a gentile and wished to become a Jew, you were baptised. John preached repentance of sins and baptised those who responded, thereby acknowledging their sinfulness and being immersed in water as a sign of their cleansing. To the pious but arrogant Jew, John's call was an insult - it was tantamount to saying they were not Jews and needed to become Jews! Jesus felt the need to identify himself with all the people whom he intended to bring into a similar intimate fellowship with God. His messianic role had become that of a mediator. In other words, this one act symbolised his solidarity with all humanity and also his mission. The act also forms a kind of ordination for Jesus' ministry. One embarked on, his first challenge was facing temptation in the wilderness. The moment had come for him to commit himself, to move out into a wider community than his carpenter shop in the small village of Nazareth. Henceforth he would make known to whomsoever would listen what was involved in a life lived totally within the reign of God's love, to live in such a way that people would see that Israel's messianic promise could only be fulfilled in such a totally committed life.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose willing submission to the way of righteousness is the pattern of our calling to be his people and live in his way.

Post Communion: Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; 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 recovery from surgery at home.

For Robin & Victoria Maslin and their two children.

For Fay Lord and for her twin brother Terry Jeanes,

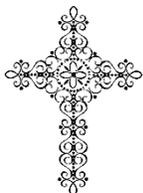
For Ted in hospital and for his daughter Sue,

For Michelle Simpson, Ann Lambert, Chrissie Combes,

For Betty – Hillary and Jane, Rev'd Deb Smith.



Requiescant in pace



Graham Keen, of Piddletrenthide - Please pray for Janet and the family.

Rev'd Benny Hazlehurst, of Cheselbourne - Please pray for Mel, Iona and Isaac.

Funeral at St Peter's Church, Dorchester Tuesday 15th January at 1pm

What's going on around the Benefice!

Correct dates for Morning Prayer, Coffee and a Chat with the Rector as follows:

17th January	9am	Piddletrenthide
7th February	9am	Hilton
21st February	9am	Melcombe Horsey

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Midweek Eucharist, Coffee and a Chat with the Rector.

14th February 9.30am Piddlehinton Eucharist

Thursday 17th January: 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. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 22nd January; we will be continuing our series on the fruits of the spirit, so please bring your thoughts and readings on 'gentleness' that evening. (Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585.) **All Welcome.**

Foodbank: All the benefice churches should have a food bank box, **please bring a tin/packet a week** over the winter months to support those who are in need. Ginny will bring a fresh supply of posters/leaflets for each church and can deliver donations to Dorchester as required. We as a Benefice are supporting both Blandford and Dorchester Food Bank. If you have any 'photos of a full donation box, please email them to the Rector for the Facebook page & website. Fr. Roger and I also support the Lantern Trust in Weymouth and are grateful to the Piddle Inn for supporting this with food donations.



Next Sunday's Services

<u>20th January 2019</u>	<u>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</u>
Altar Colour – White	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Piddletrenthide
Isaiah 62: 1-5	9.30am Family Eucharist * at Cheselbourne
Psalms 36: 5-10	11.00am Parish Communion at Piddlehinton
1 Cor. 12: 1-11	11.00am Sung Morning Prayer (BCP) at Hilton
John 2: 1-11	11.00am Horsey Half Hour * at Melcombe Horsey
	* Refreshments and fellowship after the service