



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

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

***Altar Colour – White/Gold***

Isaiah 62: 1-5  
Psalm 36: 5-10

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.**

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (ESV) - *Spiritual Gifts***

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Comment:** Paul had many difficulties teaching the new converts in Corinth just what it meant to believe in Jesus as Lord and follow his way of life. A major disagreement had arisen as to which of the gifts of the Spirit were the more important. Here Paul points out that all gifts come from the same Spirit of God, serve different purposes in the Christian community, and yet contribute to the common good. The issue still has relevance for our modern congregations. Each member may have a different role to play depending on his or her particular talents.

## **John 2:1-11 (ESV) - *The Wedding at Cana***

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**Comment:** John's Gospel took its shape from a series of signs revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Saviour of the world. This miracle story is the first of these signs. In the New Testament, a sign designated an outward manifestation of a hidden and usually divine purpose. Jesus himself was a sign that, as in the past, God had again taken redemptive initiative in Israel's history. We meet this concept first in the birth narratives (Luke 2:12, 34). So also the miracles of Jesus were themselves signs that the dynamic reign of divine love was in process of being fulfilled in human affairs. Not only the person of Jesus and all his works, but also his death and resurrection were signs that the prophesied Day of the Lord when all history would be consummated was at hand. There is in this passage our Lord's curious reluctance to follow his mother's off-hand information that the ordinary wine for the wedding feast had run out. Immediately, she told the servants standing by to do whatever he told them. This almost insignificant aside can be seen as the way for Jesus to differentiate himself from his closest human relationships. He appeared to reject his mother's counsel and yet also as indicated that she did believe in him as the Messiah. The steward supervising the serving of the feast and the bridegroom were quite ignorant of what had happened. Our post Enlightenment Age minds have yet to grasp that biblical miracles cannot be explained in terms that exclude the supernatural. John and his contemporaries had no difficulty combining such spiritual and material realities of divine initiatives in ordinary human affairs. This was especially true of the Hebrew minds who penned the Old and New Testaments, because spiritual realities were as obvious to them as the water with which they washed and the wine they drank at their festivals or ordinary meals.

**Short Preface:** And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

**Post Communion:** Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Blessing:** Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; 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 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.

For Mel, Isaac and Iona Hazlehurst, For Janet Keen and family



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## What's going on around the Benefice!

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

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 24<sup>th</sup> 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. *This week I have taken food from Alton Pancras, Piddletrenthide and Melcombe Horsey.* 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.



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

### Next Sunday's Services

<u>27<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</u>
Altar Colour – White	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Cheselbourne
Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	9.30am Joint Family Eucharist * at Alton Pancras (With Piddletrenthide)
Psalms 19	6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Hilton
1 Cor. 12: 12-31a	6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton
Luke 4: 14-21	* Refreshments and fellowship after the service