



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

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

*Altar Colour – Purple*

Please take this pew sheet home.

Gen. 15: 1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

**Collect:** Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Philippians 3:17-4:1 (ESV)**

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

**COMMENT:** As this passage shows, Paul had a very close relationship with the Philippian congregation. None of his other letters express his love and concern for them in such intimate terms. This could well have been due to the story told in Acts 16 that it was in Philippi that Paul first made contact with a European community and founded the first European congregation there. The Philippians struggled with a problem we also face every day: how to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in a hostile environment in which the majority of our neighbours do not share our convictions. He faced death on a daily basis, particularly so if, as many scholars have concluded, he wrote this letter from prison either in Rome or in Caesarea Maritima, on the east coast of the Mediterranean, while on his way to Rome (Acts 25-26). Paul's advice was that the Philippians follow his example as he had followed Christ in living in this world, but with totally different values to guide them: "In the world, but not of it." In 3:20 Paul reminds us that we are citizens of heaven. It saddened Paul

greatly that many chose “to live as enemies of the cross of Christ” (verse 18). The essence of sin as he saw it was to continue to live in the spiritual dysfunctional way of selfishness, greed, hate and pride that brought about the death of Jesus on the cross. A so much better way lay in the way Jesus himself had lived. That too was the way Paul himself had tried to live, however imperfectly, since his conversion on the Damascus Road. He had said as much in the paragraph immediately preceding this passage. Lent is a time when we may examine our lives, confess our sins and renew our commitment to live differently. While Paul knew nothing about Lent, which did not become common in the church for another millennium, this is the pattern Paul set before the Philippians and ourselves two millennia later.

### **Luke 13:31-35 (ESV) - *Lament over Jerusalem***

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

**COMMENT:** Some of the Pharisees were quite sympathetic to Jesus because he shared many beliefs with them, such as the Resurrection from the dead, and that Scripture was not restricted to the Torah, with the Books of the Prophets and such as the Psalms were accounted as Scripture. In John's Gospel, Nicodemus was one such Rabbi, and in all the Gospels, Joseph of Arimathea is another. Antipas who executed John the Baptist and would sought to execute Jesus, if he could have done so without causing a rebellion in his Galilean domain. Jesus spurned him as a sly fox knowing full well that Antipas feared his power to command significant support among his fellow peasantry as well as the more sophisticated party of Pharisees. This passage leaves us in no doubt that he did appeal to many Pharisees despite his frequent clash with them because of their sharp differences about dietary and sabbatical observances (see v31, and in the verse that follows today's passage; 14:1- where it states; “he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees”). Acknowledging himself as a prophet (v33), Jesus recognized that Jerusalem was the centre of all Jewish culture and religious tradition. He must go there; but he also realised what danger lay in wait for him (v34). Yet, like many of the great prophets before him, he knew that his mandate came from a higher authority, from the Lord and God of all (v35), who desires profound obedience expressed in love. This steady procession toward Jerusalem will lead to our Lord's passion, as he suffers and dies for our sakes, to purchase our redemption.

**Short Preface:** And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

**Post Communion:** Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Blessing:** Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; 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 pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery, illness or receiving hospital treatment, it is of great comfort to them. Including: Colin Webb, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Betty – Hillary and Jane, For Fay Lord and Terry Jeanes, Ted and his daughter Sue, Michelle Simpson.
- Please pray for those who grieve;
- Please pray for Vicky and Connor, Gill and Andrew, Quenton and Alice, who are preparing for Holy Matrimony
- Please pray for the many carers in our community who provide care for their loved ones.



**Date for your diary: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Service  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

**10.00am Combined Benefice Eucharist at Milton Abbey**

**5.00pm Mothering Sunday Eucharist at Piddlehinton**



*Mothering  
Sunday*



*Rector – Rev'd Fr. Roger J. Butcher, The Vicarage,  
Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY Tel. 01300 348211 / 07502 118210  
Email: rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com.*

## What's going on around the Benefice!



## Lenten S C H E D U L E

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Lent Eucharist - Coffee and a Chat with the Rector** 9am – Piddletrenthide

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Morning Prayer** 9.30am St Mary's Piddlehinton, this is a weekly service.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Lent Evening Prayer / Compline**

5pm Alton Pancras, Piddlehinton & Hilton

**Stepping Stones Home Group:** Next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Meets twice a month on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, at Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham. (Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585.) **All Welcome.**

**Food bank:** Please remember your food bank donations over lent.

### **Lent Lunches:**

3<sup>rd</sup> April, Holcombe Dairy House 12noon - Alton Pancras

5th April, Bridge House, 12.30 – Piddlehinton

### **Next Sunday's Services**

<b><u>24<sup>th</sup> March 2019</u></b>	<b><u>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</u></b>
<i>Altar Colour – Purple</i>	
Isaiah 55: 1-9	8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at Cheselbourne
Psalms 63: 1-9	9.30am Family Eucharist *at Alton Pancras
1 Cor. 10: 1-13	6.00pm Sung Evening prayer at Hilton
Luke 13: 1-9	6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton Followed by APCM
	<i>* refreshments and fellowship after the service</i>