



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

Sunday 12th May 2019

Easter 4

Altar Colour – White/Gold

Please take this pew sheet home.

Readings: Acts 9: 36-end, Psalm 23, Rev. 7:9-end, John 10: 22-30

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Acts 9:36-43 (ESV) - Dorcas Restored to Life

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics[b] and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

COMMENT: The story of Peter healing Dorcas, the disciple of Lydda, is one of the continuing the ministry of the risen Christ through apostles - the power of the risen ascended Lord. The account finds an echo in the story of Jesus raising the daughter of Jairus in Luke 8:41-56 just as the immediately previous healing miracle about Aeneas (9:32-34) recalls the healing of the paralytic in Luke 5:18-26. In a sense, this affirms a true succession of ministry, which does not depend solely on the presence of the apostle, but on the members of the Christian community. The Spirit that functioned through the apostles would still carry on Christ's ministry through the church. The account also serves to show

that Peter, the recognised leader of the signals that Peter, actually initiated the Gentile mission. Yet the main narrative from 13:1 on deals almost exclusively with Paul - probably owing to the fact that Luke accompanied Paul on missions.

John 10:22-30 (ESV) - *I and the Father Are One*

At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

COMMENT: Thus far, John tells us, Jesus is accused of having only hinted at who he is. Now the hecklers who followed his every move so they could entrap him wanted him to declare himself openly. He insisted that he had already told them by his actions and they would not believe. Only those who were capable of recognizing him as the true Messiah would follow him as a flock follows its shepherd. The festival of the Dedication is celebrated today as Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, which occurs on the 25th of the Hebrew month, Chislev, somewhere near our Christmas. Its origin lies in the rededication of the temple after the Maccabean Revolt of 165 BC. According to the Jewish legend, when the temple was purified, only one cruse of unpolluted ritual oil was found intact. It contained only enough oil to last a single day. By a miracle the contents that little cruse lasted for the full eight days of the rededication period until new oil could be prepared according to the correct ritual formula. The portico in which this incident took place was a columned and roofed area which enclosed the temple precincts. Some models or drawings of the temple show columns on all four sides. In most reconstructions, the name Solomon's Portico is generally reserved for the eastern side only. It was breached by the Shushan or Beautiful Gate which gave general access from the Kidron Valley to the Temple Mount and the Court of the Gentiles. The portico on the north side was named the Royal Porch. People walked there to pray and meditate. There too Rabbis strolled as they talked to their disciples (not necessarily students) and expounded their particular doctrines and interpretations of the traditional faith. The narrative includes the corroborating data that "it was winter." Such details seem to suggest that the story comes from an eyewitness. If it was the apostle John whose account of this incident is reported here, he certainly would have been aware of this location and the message Jesus delivered to his disciples. The content of Jesus' conversation with his opponents is a continuation of the teaching in 10:1-18 in which another messianic declaration, "I am the good shepherd," is the central focus. Typical of John's sub-plot of a continuing controversy with the Jewish authorities, he has Jesus

confirm the difference between those who believe and follow him, and those who don't. Obviously John was writing this to exhort his own community at the end of the 1st century to remain faithful under duress, a theme which is extensively elaborated in the Book of Revelation - this is also the challenge for the 21st Century.

Short Preface: But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Post Communion: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; 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, Anna Webb, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Liz Larpent, Fay Lord and Terry Jeanes, Michelle Simpson, Betty – Hillary and Jane
- Please pray for Tim and Clare married at Alton Pancras yesterday.
- Please pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony during May, June & August:
 - ❖ Vicky & Connor - 18th May at Piddlehinton,
 - ❖ Gill & Andrew - 18th May at Melcombe Horsey,
 - ❖ Milly & Jack - 25th May at Hilton,
 - ❖ Quenton & Alice - 22nd June at Melcombe Horsey
 - ❖ James & Clare – 10th August at Alton Pancras
 - ❖ Carl & Katy – 10th August at Cheselbourne
 - ❖ Max & Tessa – 17th August at Hilton
 - ❖ Stuart & Judith of Ansty – 24th August at Hazelbury Bryan

What's going on around the Benefice!

Tuesday 14th May: Benefice Meeting, Piddle Valley School
6.30pm. Please bring nibbles to share.

Thursday 16th May: Morning Prayer, Coffee and a Chat
with the Rector 9am Piddletrenthide.

Thursday 16th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Piddlehinton.

Friday 17th May: Charity Coffee Morning Piddlehinton Village Hall 10-12noon.
Proceeds to Christian Aid

Food Bank: As a benefice we will continue to collect a packet/tin a week to support
those in the wider Dorchester community who are in need - Thank you.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 21st May: Stepping Stones Home Group Meet twice a month on a
Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, at Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham.
(Richard and Julie Saunders on 01258 880585.) **All Welcome.**

Tuesday 3rd June Tiddlers: Piddle Valley Tiddlers 0-3's grp at Piddle Valley School.
Please spread the word! For information contact:
Alicia Eysenck Tel: 01305 251841 or Mob: 07990 740339

Sunday 30th June 5th Sunday Joint Benefice Service: Eucharist at Milton Abbey
with cricket/rounders and BYO picnic afterwards.

| 19th May 2019 | 5th Sunday of Easter | |
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| <i>Altar Colour – White</i> | 8.30am Holy Communion | Piddletrenthide |
| Acts 11: 1-18 | 9.30am Baptism of Lola | Cheselbourne |
| Psalms 148 [1-6] | 11.00am Morning Prayer | Hilton |
| Rev. 21: 1-6 | 11.00am Parish Communion | Piddlehinton |
| John 13: 31-35 | 11.00am Horsey Half Hour | Melcombe Horsey |

Rector: Fr. Roger Butcher, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY
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