



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

Sunday 28th April 2019

Easter 2

Altar Colour – White/Gold

Please take this pew sheet home.

Readings: Acts 5: 27-32, Psalm 118: 14-end, Rev: 1: 4-8, John 20: 19-End

Collect: Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Acts 5:27-32 (ESV) - The Apostles Arrested

When the Captain and officers had brought the Apostles, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

COMMENT: This incident must have taken place relatively soon after the resurrection. It illustrates the opposition to the preaching of the Gospel by the same religious authorities who had opposed Jesus and arranged his execution at the hands of the Romans. In disobeying the orders of the Sanhedrin, the high council of Israel's religious establishment, the apostles claimed to have a higher, divine authority for what they did. Christians have always faced such challenges to their loyalties and are forced to choose.

John 20:19-31 (ESV) - Jesus Appears to the Disciples

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Jesus and Thomas

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

COMMENT: The purpose of John's Gospel is to reassure us that the facts conveyed are true, and that we can have confidence in believing in Christ, and so "have life in his name". We might think that this episode is found in John's Gospel alone. Yet this passage echoes similar passages in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew 28:16-17 has this; "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted." This sight of Jesus may have been from a distance, and so Jesus drew nearer to them; "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven... etc." The word for "came" is προσέρχομαι - proserchomai – "to draw near" – "to come close", an act of reassurance. In Luke 24:37 on seeing Jesus, the disciples thought it was a spirit, but Jesus invites the disciples to touch him – "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have", and yet Luke points

out that there was disbelief and emotion of joy and marvelling, but reassurance, as he ate the broiled fish the disciples gave to him (Luke 24:39-41). In John's recounting, a doubting disciple is given a name; "doubting Thomas". So doubt is an ancient apostolic tradition, but so to, is the reassurance we can find in our Lord and in the Scriptures.

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: Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **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. Betty – Hillary and Jane,
- For Fay Lord and Terry Jeanes, Michelle Simpson.
- Please pray for those who grieve.
- Please pray for our 5 couples preparing for Holy Matrimony during May and June:
 - ❖ Tim & Clare - 11th May at Alton Pancras,
 - ❖ 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



What's going on around the Benefice!



Thursday 2nd May: Morning Prayer, Coffee and a Chat with the Rector 9am Alton Pancras.

Thursday 2nd May: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Piddlehinton.

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.

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.** *Next Meeting 7th May to discuss the book of the prophet Joel.*

Dates for your Diary

Tiddlers: Piddle Valley Tiddlers is relaunching on Tuesday 7th May at Piddle Valley School. Please spread the word!

Benefice Meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Piddle Valley School 6.30pm

Charity Coffee Morning: Friday 17th May 2019, Piddlehinton Village Hall 10-12noon. Proceeds to Christian Aid.

<u>5th May 2019</u>	<u>3rd Sunday of Easter</u>	
Altar Colour – White	8.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Valley Family Service Rogation Walk	Alton Pancras Piddlehinton
Acts 9: 1-6 Psalm 30 Rev. 11-end John 21: 1-19	10.30am Songs of Praise * 11.00 Morning Prayer 11.00 Morning Prayer 6.00pm Evening Prayer	Hilton Piddletrenthide Melcombe Horsey Cheselbourne