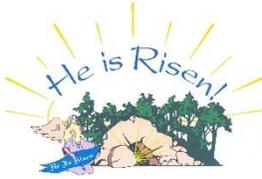


**The Benefice of the Piddle Valley,
Hilton & Ansty, Cheselbourne
and Melcombe Horsey**



Sunday 5th May 2019

Easter 3

Altar Colour – White/Gold

Please take this pew sheet home.

Readings: Acts 9: 1-6 (7-22), Psalm 30, Rev. 11-end, John 21: 1-19

Collect: Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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 9:1-6 [7-22] (ESV) - The Conversion of Saul

1-6: But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

COMMENT: Much is made by sceptical scholars over the fact that Paul's meeting with the Risen Lord was allegedly via a vision. This is then factored backward, as the experience of all the Apostles. The detail of the appearance of God (Theophany) needs closer attention. On the Damascus Road, Paul hears a voice (Acts 9:4) - he does not dream he heard a voice. He did not have a vision of hearing a voice. Of course the Lord was accompanied by a radiant light – and this fact may induce the sceptics to incorrectly to cast this as a vision. Also it must be noted that those who were with him experienced hearing the voice although they did not understand what was being said – Acts 9:7 and Acts 22:9, as the voice spoke in the Hebrew language – Acts 26:14. The voice made it clear that the speaker is Jesus, Acts 9:5 and Acts 26:15. Furthermore in Acts when anyone has a vision, with one exception Luke identifies and states that this is the case.

If anyone wishes to count Paul's experience as a vision, they do so clearly against the evidence of the text, and more honesty is needed by critical scholars about their rejection of the claims of the author of Acts about the event, rather than suggesting they are interpreting the text. Further references: Acts 9:27. - Acts 1:1-11. 1 Corinthians 15:35ff. Philippians 3:20-21

John 21:1-14 [15-19] (ESV) - Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when

you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “

COMMENT: Scholarly consensus regards this chapter as an appendix to the Gospel. Jesus appeared in Galilee to several disciples who had returned to fishing. He showed that he had been raised from the dead by eating with the disciples. He also restored Peter’s leadership in the apostolic church in the light of Peter’s earlier denial.

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: Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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, Michelle Simpson, Fay Lord and Terry Jeanes, Betty – Hillary and Jane
- 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!



Tuesday 7th 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. Next to discuss the book of the prophet Joel.

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

Thursday 9th 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.

Next Sunday Services & Readings

12th May 2019 <i>Altar Colour – White</i> Acts 9: 36-end Psalm 23 Rev. 7:9-end John 10: 22-30	4th Sunday of Easter 8.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Eucharist 11.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Evening Prayer	Hilton Alton Pancras Melcombe Horsey Piddlehinton
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Dates for your Diary

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

Alicia Eysenck Tel: 01305 251841 or Mob: 07990 740339

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.

Benefice Summer Fundraising Events



25th May 2019: Alton Pancras Fete: In the Church Grounds & Australl Farm House

22nd June 2019: Piddletrenthide Fete: at The Manor House

20th July 2019: Piddlehinton Fete and evening BBQ with music at East Farmhouse.

21st & 22nd June 2019: Dorset Midsummer Music Festival:
Warren Farm, Bulbarrow.

(A collaboration between Cheselbourne,
Melcombe Horsey & Hilton & Ansty)

