



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

Sunday 21st July 2019

5th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 11)

Altar Colour – Green

Please take this pew sheet home.

Readings: Gen. 18: 1-10, Psalm 15, Col. 1: 15-28, Luke 10: 38-end

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 18:1-10 (ESV) - Isaac's Birth Promised

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

COMMENT: This odd little story tells of God appearing to Abraham in the guise of three travellers to promise that they would have a son in their later years. Some Christian exegetes (textual students) see in this passage, the Holy Trinity of three persons. The motif

of God appearing in the guise of three men has much in common with other ancient religious literature. The three men though, could be agents of the LORD – messengers or ‘Angels’ if you will. Abraham’s hospitality also follows the traditional custom of tribal societies. Such hospitality usually resulted in a blessing. For this reason alone, the story would have been remembered with great favour in the oral tradition preceding its documentation.

Colossians 1:15-28 (ESV) - The Pre-eminence of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul's Ministry to the Church

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV) - Martha and Mary

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

COMMENT: Martha frets; Mary listens, an easy assumption. However this could be an over-simplification of the story. Indeed Jesus does seem to rebuke Martha for her task-driven anxiety and to praise Mary for sitting at his feet listening to what he said. This has been the traditional interpretation which some people have pushed to the extreme by claiming that faith and contemplative spirituality are better than works and active service. 'It is unlikely that Jesus meant to draw such a distinction'. Life for Jesus had a much greater harmony of both prayer and action, worship and work. He spent his days teaching and healing, but also frequently withdrew to a quiet place for prayer and contemplation of the presence of God in stillness and silence. The actual text of what Jesus said to Martha may have come down to us in somewhat garbled form, since various readings of v. 41-42 survive. Whatever may have been Jesus' original words, it would appear that he may well have urged Martha to seek first the Reign of God and let other things assume their proper place within that spiritual context, as Matthew 6:33 states. As an aside, "sitting at the feet" (v. 39) or being at someone's feet is not necessarily a term of discipleship (as is claimed by some) but a well understood act of respect, see; Mathew 28:9; Mark 5:22 & 7:25; Luke 7:38-46, 8:41, 10:39 & 17:16; John 11:2, 11:32 & 12:3.

Post Communion: Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing: Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread, make you one in praise and love, and raise you up at the last day; 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 those who are suffering: Colin Webb in hospital, Anna Webb, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord and Terry Jeanes, Marion Trainer...
- Please pray for our farming community who are working tirelessly to harvest.
- Please pray for those who grieve and miss the earthly presence of a loved one.
- Please pray for the children and school staff in our benefice who are about to start their summer holiday.
- We pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony during August: James & Clare (AP), Max & Tessa (Hilton), Carl & Katy (CB), Stuart & Judith (Hazelbury Bryan). September: Sam & Becky (MH), Sam & Rebecca (Hilton). October: Adam & Valerie (PH)



What's going on around the Benefice!



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. Food Bank is preparing for a busy summer holiday period, when the free school meals many families depend on are not available.

Thursday 25th July: 9.30am Morning Prayer: at Piddlehinton, with Alan Neades

Thursday 25th July: SSC Chapter meeting for midday communion service at Piddletrenthide.

<u>28th July 2019</u>	<u>6th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
Altar Colour - Green Gen. 18: 20-32 Psalm 138 Col. 2: 6-15 Luke 11: 1-13	8.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Eucharist * 6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer 6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer	Cheselbourne Alton Pancras Piddlehinton Hilton

* Refreshments and fellowship after the service

Dates for your diary

Stepping Stones break for the summer, back in September

Morning Prayer, Coffee and a chat break for the summer, back in September

10th September 10am Tiddlers at Piddle Valley School, back on 10th September

29th September 10.30am Combined Benefice Communion Service at Milton Abbey

Rector: Fr. Roger Butcher, The Vicarage, Church Lane,
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