



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

Sunday 4th August 2019
7th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 13)

Altar Colour – Green

[Please take this pew sheet home.](#)

Readings: Eccles. 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 18-23, Psalm 49: 1-12, Col. 3: 1-11, Luke 12: 13-21

Collect: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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**

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14; 2:18-23 (ESV) *The Vanity of Wisdom*

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

The Vanity of Toil

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

COMMENT: Qoheleth, the teacher of Wisdom, known more by the Latin name of the book, Ecclesiastes, was the classical cynic of scripture. These selections from the beginning of his collection of wise sayings express that characterisation very well. Purporting to be Solomon, the son of David, he used this pseudonym to

conceal his identity as a 4th century observer of Israel's moral and spiritual decline during the latter part of the Persian period (539-333 BC). Qoheleth appears to be agnostic and fatalistic, which fits well with his affirmation of the existence and power of the LORD. This found expression in his oft repeated statement that "all is vanity and chasing after wind." Qoheleth came to the conclusion that life did not have much meaning at all. As he said in 2:18-21, he despaired of his labours yielding anything from which he might benefit. Only others gained from what he had wrought. All one's efforts yield only pain and vexation. As a result, he eschewed all but pleasure and felt that this too was the will of God (vs 24-25 not in this reading). He must have suffered from a prolonged depression or his times must have been exceedingly oppressive.

Luke 12:13-21 (ESV) The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

COMMENT: A man was concerned with his inheritance (or lack of it), and asked Jesus to intervene. This became a moment of teaching about the false reliance on wealth. This episode from the Gospel of Luke reinforces the lesson of "seek his [God's] kingdom, and these things will be added to you", as found further on in this chapter (v. 31). This summary is borrowed from Matthew 6:3, given as "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you." Note from the last verse of the passage that it is not wealth as such that is wrong, but how we see our wealth – money loaned to us by God for his work. It is not money that is the root of all kinds of evil, but the love of money! 1 Timothy 6:10.

Post Communion: Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Blessing: God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; 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 ill, or suffering: Colin Webb and his family, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Terry Jeanes, Marion Traynor...
- Please pray for those who grieve and miss the earthly presence of a loved one.
- We pray for James and Clare, Carl and Katy, both couples married on 10th August.
- We pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony during August: Max & Tessa (Hilton), Stuart & Judith (Hazelbury Bryan). September: Sam & Becky (MH), Sam & Rebecca (Hilton). October: Adam & Valerie (PH)



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

Valley Family Service at Piddlehinton back on 1st September

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

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

What's going on around the Benefice!



We are grateful for the support of Rev'd Helier Exon, Rev'd Hugh Willis, Rev'd Bruce Dixon, Catherine Langham, Sue Widdowson and Sue Gainey, who between them are covering services on the 28th July and 4th August. This has enabled Fr. Roger and family to go away on holiday.

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 8th August: 9.30am Morning Prayer: at Piddlehinton, with Alan Neades

<u>11th August 2019</u>	<u>8th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
Altar Colour - Green Gen. 15: 1-6 Psalm 33: 12-end Heb. 11: 1-3, 8-16 Luke 12: 32-40	8.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion 11.00am Parish Communion 6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer	Hilton Alton Pancras Melcombe Horsey Piddlehinton

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