



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

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Proper 19)

*Altar Colour – Green*

Please take this pew sheet home.

**Readings:** Exod. 32: 7-14, Psalm 51: 1-11, 1 Tim. 1: 12-17, Luke 15: 1-10

**Collect:** Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Exodus 32: 7-14 (ESV) - The Golden Calf**

And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.” But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

**COMMENT:** The verses chosen as the lection begin halfway through the story, which speaks for itself. The LORD describes the people as “your people” (v. 7)

much in the same way as one spouse may speak of a naughty child as being the other spouse's child. Yet Moses in reply he addresses them as the LORD's people (verse 11). 'Stiff-necked' is a Hebrew idiom close to the meaning of the English word 'headstrong'. God hints at the outset of verse 10, there is room to implore God, and intercede on the people's behalf. "therefore let me alone" – almost "give me permission". The Prophets frequently play this intercessory role (1 Samuel 12:23; Jeremiah 18:20; Ezekiel 22:30-31; Psalm 106:23). This view cuts against the strict Protestant view, that no other man can mediate between a person and God, but it also places a great responsibility on all Christians to become intercessors on behalf of others – in prayer we can make a difference!

### **Luke 15:1-10 (ESV) - The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

### ***The Parable of the Lost Coin***

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

**COMMENT:** These two impressionistic stories from the daily life of a Palestinian peasant are often overlooked because of their proximity to the much more familiar parable that follows. They tell the story of God's love for the lost and God's wholly undeserved grace that offers full and free forgiveness. Note that both parables emphasise the joyful celebration when the lost article is found. The allusion is to God's joy over a sinner who repents. To God, everyone is important – and loved with an indiscriminate love. No one is excluded. This crucially significant truth speaks to our time when doubt and disbelief often overwhelm faith and guilt causes some to separate from the Christian community. In each of these two parables, we have profound theology spoken with great simplicity. Was one sheep so valuable? To a poor shepherd, a single lamb would have been

precious. His whole livelihood depended on maximizing the number of lambs his herd produced and brought to marketable size. Is it any wonder that the incident sprang into Jesus' mind as he sought to show how much God loves even the most foolish and undeserving of sinners? As for the woman who had lost a coin, could she not be Jesus' own mother, Mary, whose anxiety and joy he recalled so vividly? How often had he come into their humble home from his carpenter shop to find Mary happily celebrating with her closest friends over a refreshing cup of diluted vinegar-wine, a popular beverage among the poor. They made it by pouring water over the skins and stalks left over from the crushing of grapes for wine, then allowing it to ferment. A single coin among ten would have been of great value to the struggling family, perhaps now left fatherless by the death of Joseph as legend tells it. In his *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*, Bruce Chilton infers that Jesus did not have very happy relationships with his family after Joseph died. Even a mamzer (an outcast because his birth had been suspicious), would have retained such memories of home as he wandered far and wide during his "hidden" years. As a wandering Rabbi, however, he knew that memories such as these would connect directly with his audience who presumably were peasant folk too for the most part.

**Post Communion:** God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**The Blessing:** The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; 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, recovering from illness or surgery: June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Faye Lord, Terry Jeanes, Katie, Alma, Lisa Bailey, Roger Gray, and Marion Traynor...
- Please pray for those who grieve and miss the earthly presence of a loved one.
- We pray for Samuel and Rebecca who were married at Melcombe Horsey on Saturday, and for Adam and Valerie who are to be married in October at Piddlehinton.
- Please pray for those starting or returning to University.



**Requiescant in pace**

Anna Trevallion of Cheselbourne, funeral Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August at Weymouth Crematorium 10.45am followed by a thanksgiving at St Martin’s Church Cheselbourne at 2.30pm

**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.

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September: Stepping Stones** 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***

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September: 9am Morning Prayer** Coffee and a Chat with the Rector at Piddletrenthide

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September: 9.30am Morning Prayer** at Piddlehinton, with Alan Neades

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September:** at Wimborne Minster Police Chaplains and Bishop Karen Service of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 11am

<p><b><u>22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019</u></b>  <b>IRONMAN SUNDAY!</b>   <i>Altar Colour – Green</i>           Gen. 18: 20-32          Psalm 138          Col. 2: 6-15          Luke 11: 1-13</p>	<p><b><u>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</u></b>          PIDDLE VALLEY CLOSED          7.30AM – 12NOON           8.30am Holy Communion          6pm Sung Evening Prayer          6pm Harvest Festival,              Songs of Praise          (Followed by communion by ext.)</p>	<p>Cheselbourne          Piddlehinton          Alton Pancras</p>
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**Dates for your diary**

29<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am Combined Benefice Communion Service at Milton Abbey

16<sup>th</sup> October WEDNESDAY 6.30pm Benefice Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

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