



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

Sunday 29th September 2019

Michael and All Angels

Altar Colour – White

Readings: Gen. 28: 10-17, Psalm 103: 19-end, Rev. 12: 7-12, John 1: 47-end

Collect: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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**

Revelation 12:7-12 (ESV) - Satan Thrown Down to Earth

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

COMMENT: Sometimes authors use a form of writing called “chiasm,” where the central idea of a passage is found not at the beginning or end but in the centre, with similar, identical, or contrasting language and/or ideas flowing out from the centre in both directions. This passage interrupts the flow of Revelation 12:1-6, which is continued from verse 13 onwards. Chiasms help us see major points the author is trying to convey. In vs. 7-12 the curtain is pulled aside so we can see and understand the cosmic conflict that began in heaven. The devil, Satan, that serpent of old began his attacks in heaven (vs. 7-9), continued them here on earth and

focuses them particularly on Jesus faithful followers after Jesus is no longer on the earth (v. 10, cf. verses 5-6). He intensifies his attacks as he sees that time is short (v. 11-12). Is the author calling us to increase our vigilance as we see where we are living in the sweep of history? Is he inviting us to put all our trust in the Lamb and to be far more active in living and professing our faith (v. 12)? Essentially the passage is the war between good and evil, and the triumph of good, with the Archangel Michael leading the fight!

John 1:47-51 (ESV)

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

COMMENT: Nathanael, was not one of the twelve, despite attempts to identify him with Bartholomew of the other three Gospels. Whilst certain biblical characters have alternate names, one name is a 'nickname' and the other a proper name. Simon, was known by the nicknames of 'Peter' – Greek for stone, and 'Cephas' – Aramaic for stone. No Biblical character ever used two proper names. Nathanael would have been an important member of the Johannine Community (the community in which the fourth Gospel arose). At the start of the Gospel he makes a good, orthodox confession: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" At the end of the Gospel, Nathanael appears as one of the witnesses to the Risen Lord – John 21:2. Upon Nathanael's confession Jesus questions why he believes. It is not enough just to say the right words or experience something miraculous. These things are just the beginning of following Jesus. The "you" in verse 51, is aimed at all the disciples as it is cast in the plural. He will see even greater things. The allusion to the ladder takes us back to Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:12-22). In both Genesis and John the Angels ascent, before they descend – most might argue it should be the other way. According to the Epistle to the Hebrews 1:13-14, the Angels are here on earth all the time as "ministering spirits", "which are sent out sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation", and hence why the Church celebrates their presence on the 29th of September each year. Although Gabriel is by tradition counted as an Archangel, Michael is the only one so named in Jude 9. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 mentions an Archangel but with no name given.

Short Preface: And now we give you thanks that your glory is revealed in St Michael and all the saints. In their lives you have given us an example of faithfulness to Christ. In their holiness we find encouragement and hope. In our communion with them we share the unity of your kingdom.

Post Communion: Lord of heaven, in this Eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect: as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing: God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; 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, Lisa Bailey, Roger Gray, Bernard , Marion Traynor...
- Please pray for the The Winterborne Valley and Milton Abbas Benefice during their interregnum. Also for Rev'd Alan Ryan and family as they settle into their new life in Devon.
- Please pray for those who grieve,
- Please pray for our benefice schools of Piddle Valley and Cheselbourne for the children, teachers, staff and governors.

*If you would like to add someone to the Prayer list,
please email the Rector.*



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 1st October: Tiddlers at Piddle Valley School 10.00am to 11.30am.

Thursday 3rd October: 9.00am Morning Prayer Coffee and a chat with the Rector at Hilton

Thursday 3rd October: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Piddlehinton, with Alan Neades

Friday 4th October: 7.00pm Piddlehinton Harvest Festival followed by Supper and Auction of Produce at the Village Hall.

<u>6th October 2019</u>	<u>17th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
<i>Altar Colour - green</i>	8.30am Communion	Alton Pancras
Hab. 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4	9.30am Baptism of Elana	Piddlehinton
Psalms 37: 1-9	10.30am Harvest Festival	Hilton
2 Tim. 1: 1-14	Songs of Praise **	
Luke 17: 5-10	11.00am Morning Prayer	Piddletrenthide
	11.00am Harvest Morning Prayer	Melcombe Horsey
	6.00pm Evening Prayer	Cheselbourne

**** followed by bacon rolls and annual church yard tidy**

Dates for your diary

Stepping Stones next meet in October, dates to follow and all are welcome.

16th October WEDNESDAY 6.30pm Benefice Meeting. Cheselbourne Village Hall

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