



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

Sunday 8th September 2019
12th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 18)

Altar Colour – Green

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

Readings: Deut. 30: 15-end, **Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-18 (or 1-7)**, Philemon 1-21,
Luke 14: 25-33

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 ESV - *The Choice of Life and Death*

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

COMMENT: We have here the Deuteronomic formula (of obedience to the Law) that became the theme for so much of the final edit of the Old Testament documents in the centuries following the return of the exiles from Babylon in 639 BC. This was especially true of the Books of Joshua and Judges, many Psalms and the Books of Chronicles. God’s covenant with Israel required absolute obedience

to the Torah as defined by the commandments given to Moses at Mount Sinai. Life, prosperity and the inheritance of the Promised Land depended on this obedience.

Luke 14:25-33 (ESV) - The Cost of Discipleship

Now great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

COMMENT: A parallel reading also appears in Matthew 10:37-39. These are most likely to be the actual words spoken by Jesus. The parables too have an authentic ring to them as the kind of homely examples Jesus would have given to help his audience remember what he had said. Was Jesus just being cautious and giving fair warning to those wishing to follow him as he approached the crucial event of his ministry? Verse 25 notes that "large crowds were travelling with him." The moment was at hand for everyone to decide whether to go with him to Jerusalem or remain relatively secure in Galilee. John 7:66-71 records another element of this same tradition. Even without omniscience that John attributes to him, Jesus certainly would have known of the dangers that lay ahead. The parables reveal that he was making mental and spiritual preparations for any eventuality. He wanted his disciples – not necessarily the twelve alone – to be similarly prepared. Crucifixion was designed to maintain public order by creating a paralyzing fear in the general populace. Apparently Pilate used it liberally. We may thus conclude that Jesus would have been fully aware of the possibility should he fall into the hands of the Roman authorities. It was the measure of his concern for those who had rallied to his cause that they too are made fully aware of the dangers they would face if their enthusiasm and loyalty carried them further in his company. Hence the ominous note of unfinished business in both the parables.

Post Communion: God of all mercy, in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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, recovering from illness or surgery: June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Faye Lord, Terry Jeanes, Katie, Alma Roger Gray, and Marion Traynor...
- Please pray for those who grieve and miss the earthly presence of a loved one.
- We pray for Sam and Rebecca married at Hilton on 7th September
- We pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony: Sam & Becky (MH 14.9.19). Adam & Valerie (PH 19.10.19)
- Please pray for those starting or returning to University.



Requiescant in pace

Anna Trevallion of Cheselbourne, funeral Friday 20th 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. This week I have delivered items from Cheselbourne and Alton Pancras.



Tuesday 10th September: Tiddlers: 10-11.30am at Piddle Valley School

Thursday 10th September: 9am Morning Prayer Coffee and a Chat with the Rector at Cheselbourne

Thursday 12th September: 9.30am Morning Prayer at Piddlehinton, with Alan Neades

<u>15th September 2019</u>	<u>13th Sunday after Trinity</u>	
Altar Colour – Green	8.30am Holy Communion	Piddletrenthide
Exod. 32: 7-14	9.30am Family Service	Cheselbourne
Psalms 51: 1-11	11.00am Parish Communion	Piddlehinton
1 Tim. 1: 12-17	11.00am Sung Morning Prayer	Hilton
Luke 15: 1-10	11.00am Horsey Half Hour	Melcombe Horsey

Dates for your diary

Stepping Stones Home Group, 17th September

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

16th October WEDNESDAY 6.30pm Benefice Meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

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