



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

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Epiphany 2

*Altar Colour - White*

**Readings:** *Readings Isa 49: 1-7, Psalm 40: 1-12, 1 Cor. 1: 1-9, John 1: 29-42*

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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**

**Isaiah 49:1-7 (ESV) - The Servant of the Lord**

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.

The Lord called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God." And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (ESV) - Greeting**

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge, even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**COMMENT:** Paul's letter begins in the normal fashion for correspondence of that time. Sosthenes may have been the scribe to whom Paul dictated the letter. For whatever reason, Paul seems to have had difficulty writing himself (cf. Gal.6:11). The letter is addressed to "the church of God that is in Corinth" and undoubtedly the believers there met in some kind of assembly, designated by the Greek word "ecclesia." The Septuagint translation into Greek, before the birth of Christ, used this word to translate the Hebrew "qahal," which meant "the people of God." It had become one of Paul's favourite terms occurring no less than 22 times in this one letter. It expressed how he saw the company of believers as set apart by God for a divinely appointed vocation (Cf. 7:20-21). Their being sanctified (Gk.= hegiasmenois) and called "saints" did not necessarily imply moral perfection. It did mean, however, that they had responded to the gospel in such a way that their lives could never be the same. To "call on the name of the Lord" as Paul uses the phrase here has the sense of confessing Jesus as Lord, not simply praying to him. Paul moves from the salutation to an introductory thanksgiving. While this may be normal for ordinary correspondence, in this situation it may be ironic compared with what follows in the later parts of the letter. Yet we cannot deny that Paul had a sincere love for those to whom he had brought the gospel. As a wise and loving pastor, he could only have confronted them as he did if he held them very much in his heart. In his thanksgiving Paul states briefly the inestimable value of Christian faith by telling the Corinthians that they have been greatly enriched spiritually and strengthened to live Christ's way until he comes again. The introduction ends with Paul's assurance that their Corinthian reward for faithfulness will be- even now is- strength for life's struggle, freedom from guilt, and fellowship with Christ.

### **John 1:29-42 (ESV) - Behold, the Lamb of God**

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'after me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

### ***Jesus calls the First Disciples***

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and

said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

**COMMENT:** John recognised Jesus as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” This was one of the main themes of John’s Gospel. The term “the Lamb of God” had its roots in the Jewish ritual of sacrifice. There seems little doubt, however, that the daily offerings of unblemished lambs in the temple came to John’s mind as he began his narrative of Jesus ministry. This symbolism of the sacrificial lamb was later adopted by the church as part of the order for the Eucharist. John himself had this in mind too in his correlation of the death of Jesus with the hour when the Pascal lamb was killed. (See John 19:31-36.) Note that this gospel never states that John baptised Jesus (the author may have assumed we already know this). John merely tells his disciples that while he baptised with water, Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Note also that it was John, not Jesus, who saw the Spirit descending as a dove. Is this a reflection of the Spirit brooding over the waters of the Jordan as on the day of creation and Noah’s dove searching for a place to settle? Christian art uses the dove to decorate baptismal fonts, to remind us that our baptism is efficacious only because Christ was baptised and that in our baptism, as in his, the inward reality of the action is the descent of the Holy Spirit. The next day, two of John disciples left John and followed Jesus, first out of curiosity, then out of conviction. Surprisingly, it was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, who made the first confession that Jesus was the Messiah. If the gospel came from the personal testimony of John, the son of Zebedee, we have here an independent tradition perhaps more accurate than that of the Synoptic Gospels. How else would we know the nickname Jesus gave in Aramaic to what appears the most unlikely of persons the “Rock?”

**Short Preface:** And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness to see the radiance of your glory.

**Post Communion:** Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Blessing:** Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; 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 pray for the sick, those in hospital, and those recovering from illness or surgery including: Pat Kenwick, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord, Reg Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Roger Gray, Anna Webb, Bernard, Martin DeWavrin, Marion Traynor...

Please pray for those who are grieving, particularly Lewis and Hector.

### **Requiescat in pace**



Amy Quin, Piddletrenthide. Funeral 31<sup>st</sup> January 3pm at Poole Crematorium

### **What's going on around the Benefice!**

**Food Bank:** We shall continue to collect and tin/packet a week for the Dorchester Foodbank. This week I have delivered donations from Piddlehinton and Alton Pancras.



**21<sup>st</sup> January Tuesday: 7.00pm Stepping Stones**, Home group with Richard and Julie Saunders at Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham

**23<sup>rd</sup> January Thursday, 9.00am Morning Prayer** Coffee and a chat with the Rector at Piddletrenthide

**23<sup>rd</sup> January Thursday, 9.30am Morning Prayer** with Alan Neades at Piddlehinton

### **Next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

#### **Epiphany 3**

*Readings – Isa 9: 1-4, Psalm 27: 1, 4-12, 1Cor 1: 10-18, Matt 4: 12-23*

8.30am Holy Communion at Cheselbourne

9.30am Family Eucharist at Alton Pancras

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Hilton

#### **Dates for your Diary**

Stepping Stones Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Tiddlers at Piddle Valley School 4<sup>th</sup> February

Messy Church at Piddletrenthide Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 3-5pm

Benefice service at Milton Abbey Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am

Benefice Meeting at Piddle Valley School Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm

**Rector:** Fr. Roger Butcher, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY.

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