



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

Sunday 26th January 2020
Epiphany 3

Altar Colour - White

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

Collect: God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face 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

Isaiah 9:1-4 (ESV) - For to Us a Child Is Born

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (ESV) - Divisions in the Church

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarrelling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I

baptised none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptised in my name. (I did baptise also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptised anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Christ the Wisdom and Power of God

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Matthew 4:12-23 (ESV) - *Jesus Begins His Ministry*

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Comment: John is arrested - some may find Jesus' reaction strange as he withdraws to Galilee. Jesus does not seek direct confrontation with the political powers instead he begins to preach, declaring as John had; 'repent

for the Kingdom is near', unlike John emphasising the nearness of the kingdom.

Jesus calls the first disciples, they are working and yet they leave their nets and follow him. James and John leave their father indicating the cost of following Jesus, a transformation that they must undergo.

Throughout the gospel Matthew is unsparing in his description of the incomprehension of the disciples, but they do follow Jesus. The disciples find favour with those in the crowds shout in awe and amazement at his teachings and healing but they will later shout, 'let him be crucified!'.

The whole schema is an interplay of admiration or discipleship, the latter requires new eyes and ears to the truth proclaimed through the cross.

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.**

prayer
Requests



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, Stephanie Dibble, Marion Traynor...

Any additions to the prayer list, please email the Rector.

Requiescat in pace



Amy Quin, Piddletrenthide. Funeral 31st January 3pm at Poole Crematorium

What's going on around the Benefice!



Confirmation: There has been some interest expressed regarding confirmation. Fr. Roger will be contacting Bishop Nicholas of Salisbury to arrange this to take place within the Benefice. Please email the Rector if you would be interested in becoming a confirmation candidate.

30th January Thursday, 9.30am Morning Prayer with Alan Neades at Piddlehinton.

Next Sunday 2nd February 2020

Candlemas

Readings

8.30am Holy Communion at Alton Pancras

9.30am Valley Family Service at Piddlehinton (Lay Led)

10.30am Songs of Praise at Hilton (Lay Led)

11.00am Morning Prayer at Piddletrenthide (Said)

11.00am Morning Prayer at Melcombe Horsey (Lay Led/Said)

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Cheselbourne (Lay Led)

Foodbank: Thank you for continuing to support the donations for Dorchester Food Bank by bringing a tin/packet a week to church. Ginny collects the donations and delivers about 3 bags a week to the Dorford Centre. They are starting to recognise me – thank you!

Dates for your Diary

Stepping Stones Tuesday 11th & 25th February

Tiddlers at Piddle Valley School 4th February

Messy Church at Piddletrenthide Saturday 8th February 3-5pm

Benefice service at Milton Abbey Sunday 29th March 10.30am

Benefice Meeting at Piddle Valley School Wednesday 20th May 6.30pm

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