



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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**2nd Sunday before Lent**

*Altar Colour - Green*

**Readings:** Gen 1:1- 2: 3, Psalm 136, Rom 8: 18-25, Matt 6: 25-end

**Collect:** Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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**

### **Genesis 1: 1-2: 3 (ESV) - The Creation of the World**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it

was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. The Seventh Day, God Rests. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

**Comment:** The Genesis passage is a magnificent poem tells of God’s creation of the world in an orderly fashion during a six day period. It presents a faith statement not a credible scientific hypothesis. While science may be able to give us plausible understanding of how and when the universe came into being, it cannot take us beyond the mystery of the beginning to God’s gracious spiritual

purpose as this poem does. That theme is found in the repeated refrain, “And God saw that it was good,” after each act of creation, and the final Sabbath blessing in verses 2:3.

**Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV) - Do Not Be Anxious**

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

**Comment:** With the exception of the Lord’s Prayer, is there a better known part of the Sermon on the Mount than this? The core of the whole passage is in the very first sentences. The rest is elaboration of the issue: in whom or what have we placed our trust? From the moment we are born, security (money & health) is every person’s main concern. Jesus spoke of the birds and the flowers as examples of perfect trust. We all need to seek and do God’s will. God loves us so much that God will provide for the resources we need to be God’s faithful servants in whatever we are called to be and do. Much is made of the money question. Jesus was not minimising the importance of adequate resources for daily living. He was making sure that those in his audience did not seek those things above all else and neglect the true source of security – God.

**Post Communion:** Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

**Blessing:** Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; 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 those who grieve.

Please pray for the sick, those in hospital, and those recovering from illness or surgery including: Sara Milne, Pat Kenwick, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord, Richard Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Roger Gray, Bernard, Martin DeWavrin, Stephanie Dibble, Irene Butcher, Marion Traynor...

*(Any additions to the prayer list, please email the Rector*

## What's going on around the Benefice!



**Half Term:** Fr. Roger and family are taking the opportunity to have a short Holiday - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**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. – ***No one has come forward yet!***

**Foodbank:** I have delivered donations from Piddlehinton & Piddletrenthide this week – Thank you.

**20<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday – Morning Prayer Coffee and a chat at Melcombe cancelled.**

**20<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday – 9.30am Morning Prayer Piddlehinton**

**Next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

*Sunday before lent*

*Readings:* Exod 24: 12-end, Psalm 2 or 99, 2 Peter 1: 16-end, Matt 17: 1-9

8.30am Holy Communion at Cheselbourne

9.30am Baptism at Piddletrenthide (*Communion by ext. available after baptism*)

Joined by Alton Pancras – refreshments after the services

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Hilton

6.00pm Sung Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton

### Dates for your Diary

Stepping Stones Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

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

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