



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

Sunday 23rd February 2020
Sunday before Lent

Altar Colour - Green

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

Collect: Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

2 Peter 1:16-19 (ESV) - Christ's Glory and the Prophetic Word.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

COMMENT: The Second Letter of Peter remains one of the enigmas of the NT. Although it bears the name of Peter, most scholars consider that as a pseudonym used by an unknown author early in the 2nd century to give his letter apostolic authority. The author sincerely believed, however, that he expressed Peter's views if confronted by a similar situation. Several references indicate that the author was familiar with at least some of the gospels as well as the letter of Paul and the general epistle of Jude. The threat facing the church at this time has usually been considered to have been the Gnostic heresy. Also there may have been a threat from libertinism opposed to Christian ethical standards common to any declining society. In the face of this opposition, the author presents a strong defence of the

apostolic expectation of judgment and salvation at the Parousia as the true motivation for rigorous moral behaviour. In this light, the author has interpreted this sole reference to the Transfiguration outside the first three Gospels (vs. 16-18) as a guarantee of Christ's coming in glory as eternal judge and ruler. That element of the faith had played a significant part in early Christian teaching, but had fallen into decline by the early 2nd century. The claim to be an eyewitness of this event (vs. 16b-17) serves the author as proof of authenticity. He may well have had one or other of the synoptic gospels at hand, possibly Mark's Gospel, if as some speculate, he was the leader of the church in Rome which already regarded Peter as its prestigious founder. The further reference to divinely inspired prophecies (vs. 19-21) would also confirm his familiarity with other scriptures of the Jewish tradition in which similar testaments and apocalypses were common.

Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV) - The Transfiguration

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

COMMENT: Does any other story of Jesus' ministry greater contain more mystery than this? Was it a vision revealing to the disciples Jesus' true nature and his future glory after death? Or was this an interpretation of what the ministry of Jesus meant to the church founded by the apostles? The cloud and the voice symbolised not only the close presence of God, but God's designation of Jesus as Messiah first stated in his baptism. The appearance of Moses and Elijah, as well as Peter's desire to build three tabernacles, indicated that this renewed revelation at this crucial moment in Jesus' ministry still maintained the vital connection with the law and the prophets of Israel. It also reflected the early apostolic church's sense of unbreakable continuity with the spiritual tradition of Israel.

Benefice Prayer Requests:

Please pray for Isabelle Claire Burt, baptised Sunday 23rd February at All Saints Piddletrenthide.

Please pray for those who grieve.

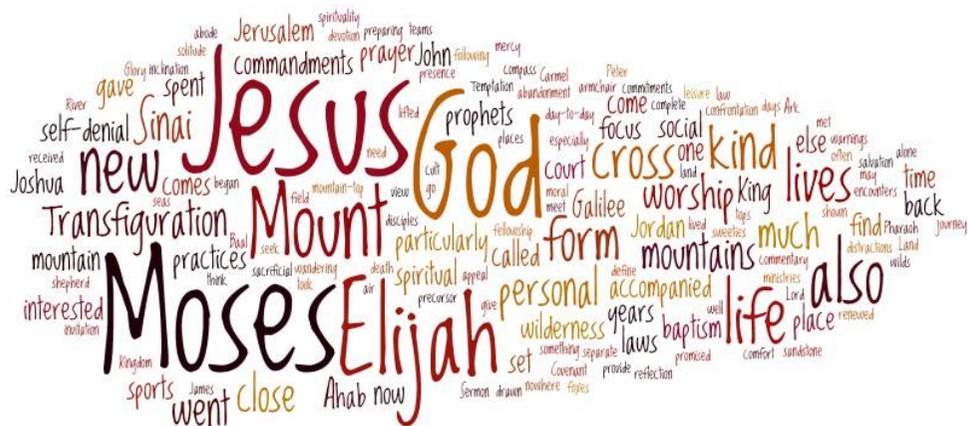
Please pray for the sick, those in hospital, and those recovering from illness or surgery including: Sara Milne, June Kellaway, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord, Richard Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Roger Gray, Bernard, Martin DeWavrin, Stephanie Dibble, Marion Traynor...



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

Post Communion: Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.**



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

Foodbank: A tin / Packet a week is much appreciated. I have delivered donations from Alton Pancras.

25th February, Tuesday – Stepping Stones 7.30pm at Orchard Cottage Melcombe Bingham with Richard and Julie Saunders. All Welcome.

26th February, Ash Wednesday - 6.30pm Ash Wednesday Service at Piddlehinton

Fr. Roger - Ashing at Piddletrenthide Shop, Piddle Valley School and Ansty Shop/Brewery Hall during the day.

27th February, Thursday – 9.30am Morning Prayer Piddlehinton

Next Sunday 1st March 2020

1st Sunday of Lent (Purple)

Readings: Gen 2: 15-17. 3: 1-7, Psalm 32, Rom 5: 12-19, Matt 4: 1-11

8.30am Holy Communion at Alton Pancras

9.30am Family Service at Piddlehinton (Lay Led)

10.30am Songs of Praise at Hilton (Lay Led)

11.00am Sung Morning Prayer at Piddletrenthide

11.00am Morning Prayer at Melcombe Horsey (Sung - Lay Led)

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Cheselbourne (Lay Led)

Dates for your Diary

Fr. Roger Police Chaplaincy - Dorchester Station Visits 4th & 18th March

Benefice service at Milton Abbey Sunday 29th March 10.30am

Messy Church – St George and the Dragon - Saturday 25th April 3-5pm

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

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

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