



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

Sunday 19th April 2020  
Easter 2 (Altar Colour White/Gold)

**Readings:** Acts 2: 14, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Pet 1: 3-9, John 20: 19-end

(During Easter, Acts must be read during a service.)

**Collect:** Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## **Acts 2:14, 22-32 (ESV) - Peter's Sermon at Pentecost**

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

**COMMENT:** From the very first, the Apostolic Church believed that God had kept the promises of the Old Testament and had brought salvation to Israel. This had occurred through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, now exalted to the right hand of God. The Holy Spirit given to the church at Pentecost was the sign of Christ's presence and power. Salvation will culminate in the return of Christ to judge the living and the dead. As witnesses to the resurrection, the apostles were the appointed messengers of this Good News (i.e. Gospel). As representatives of Christ in the world, they appealed to all who heard them to turn to God and offered them God's forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. This reading introduces that basic message. Note the audacious thrust of Peter's charge: "This man ... you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law." No shilly-shallying there! This accusation may well reflect the period when Acts appears to have been written in the 80s AD. At that time the Church and Pharisee dominated Judaism engaged in a major conflict in which Jewish Christians were expelled from synagogues. Christ's victory over death symbolised by the resurrection assumed critical significance for the church in the age of Roman persecution through the following centuries. A few decades earlier Paul made this a central part of his message and likened baptism to this victory over death. Shortly thereafter, Nero persecuted Christians in Rome, blaming them for the burning of the city which he himself had caused. Both Peter and Paul may have died in that persecution. Without doubt the Resurrection formed an essential part of the original message proclaimed from the beginning of the apostolic witness. While we can never be specific about the exact details of what happens when we die, we can still proclaim the Resurrection as the basis for our assurance for life beyond death.

### **John 20:19-31 (ESV) - Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

#### ***Jesus and Thomas***

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

#### ***The Purpose of This Book***

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**COMMENT:** John comments on the Resurrection appearances – this is now the evening of Resurrection Sunday. The author of John is more than aware of the Lucan Pentecost tradition but links the giving of the Spirit to the Resurrection. He also deals with the issue of doubt. In the opening of the story is a confession of faith, which can easily be missed. "We have seen the Lord" John uses this title throughout the Gospel as a recognition by his followers of his Lordship. Jesus' resurrection from the dead had proved his life and ministry – here indeed, in him is found the fullness of God made flesh – Jesus, the Lord. Upon Thomas' confession Jesus provides a beatitude; "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed".

**Short Preface:** But chiefly are we bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead. For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

**Post Communion:** Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**Blessing:** The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; 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 list

In your prayers, please will you pray for our friends and neighbours throughout the benefice. For the sick, the grieving, the lonely, for our key workers, all NHS staff and community support groups,



For those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness or recovering from hospital treatment: *Sara Milne, Ann Lambert, Fay Lord, Richard Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Bernard, Alex Bexon, Fr. Damian Feeney, Wakeham family, Giles Maber and Robyn Kotze. For those in care homes: including June Kelloway and Roger Gray.*



### Requiescat in pace

*Marian Traynor (Piddletrenthide).  
Raymond Parker (Weymouth)*

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

## Benefice Notices

**Live Streaming:** Thank you to all who have been watching our live streams; we are attracting 60-100 views, which is very encouraging. I am currently working on a YouTube Channel to upload the services live streamed for those who do not have facebook.



To access the live streamed services, please go to the benefice facebook page at the time of the service, and the live stream will appear. If you 'like' the benefice facebook page, you will receive notifications on live services and other information posted to the facebook page.

**Support Groups:** The Support groups are busy shopping, dog walking and prescription collecting for those who are self isolating. Contact details are attached.

**From our Treasurers:** Please contact our church treasurers to organise a regular standing order so as to continue to support the church financially, even with our doors closed. The building is closed but we are still church, just worshiping and praying in different ways.

**Foodbank:** If you are passing the Vicarage at Piddletrenthide and want to leave a food bank donation by the front door, please do. Fr. Roger will ensure donations get to the Foodbank in Dorchester (after they've been stored here for 100hrs). Donations can also be left at outside Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham and at Hilton has a collection box at Wilma and Ian Bromilow's house, donations will be taken to Blandford Food Bank.

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