



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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**Easter 7 – Sunday after Ascension**

**Readings:** Acts 1: 6-14, Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-End, John 17: 1-11

**Collect:** O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **Acts 1:6-14 (ESV) - The Ascension**

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

## **John 17:1-11 (ESV) - The High Priestly Prayer**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for

those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

**COMMENT:** It is most unlikely that these are word for word a prayer by Jesus himself. More probably they are a recollection in sentiment of Jesus’ prayer overheard by his disciples. At the heart of this passage is the essential message of John’s Gospel: Jesus has been fully revealed as the Messiah/Christ, the Son of God with all divine authority and power. As such he gives the eternal life of God to those who believe in his true nature now glorified by the resurrection.

**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:** Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

For those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness &/or hospital treatment: *Eileen Rawlings, Ken Lester, Sara Milne, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Bernard, Alex Bexon, Michelle Simpson, Giles Maber and Robyn Kotze. For those in care homes: including June Kelloway (Blandford) and Roger Gray (Dorchester).*



In your prayers, please will you pray for our friends and neighbours near and far; for the sick, including those suffering from Coronavirus, the grieving, the lonely and the anxious. For all key workers; including our school teachers, support staff, parents and Children at Cheselbourne and Piddle Valley, Clergy and Funeral Directors, NHS staff, research participants and community support groups,



### **Requiescat in pace**

*Nicola Kellaway (Cheselbourne)*

*Dawn Wheeler (Formerly Alton Pancras)*

*Yasmin (Dorchester)*

*David James McCauley (Piddletrenthide)*

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

# Benefice Notices



**Live Streaming:** Please visit our live streamed services, order of services are available on the website home page to download for Communion and Rosary.

Sunday Communion Services are now being uploaded after the live stream to YouTube, please use this link [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru\\_v3\\_1MZyzx72ka63g4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzx72ka63g4A)

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. You can use this link, log in or follow the instructions to setup an account:

[https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx\\_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq](https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq)

**Foodbank:** Thank you for continuing to support this cause during the current pandemic.

**Funerals:** During the current Pandemic, funeral services are strictly private and therefore will not be advertised on the weekly church notices. Memorial Services will be arranged at some point in the future.

**Saturday Devotions 6pm.** If you would like to join Fr. Roger to pray the Roman Rosary each Saturday in the month of May, you are most welcome.

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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