



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

is my **shepherd**. Sunday 3rd May 2020
I shall not want. Easter 4 (Altar Colour White/Gold)

Psalm 23:1

Readings: Acts 2:42-end, Psalm 23, 1 Pet 2: 19-end, John 10: 1-10
(During Easter, Acts must be read during the principle service.)

Collect: Collect Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) - The Fellowship of the Believers

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

COMMENT: The new faith community needed a specific organisational structure to maintain itself. To this end some very practical steps were taken: Instruction by the apostles, the building of friendships, a communal meal and worship. Each one of these was of particular importance. Most of the early converts were from the poorer classes rather than the wealthy. Note that they were still accepted as faithful Jews worshipping in the temple. The formal break with Judaism came a number of years later.

John 10:1-10 (ESV) - I Am the Good Shepherd

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

COMMENT: We have here words that John has recounted after decades and reflects what were then the only scriptures – the Hebrew Old Testament. – for example Psalms 23:1, 28:9, 80:1, Isaiah 40:11, Jeremiah 31:10, Ezekiel 34:15, Amos 3:12, and Micah 7:14, where God is seen as the Shepherd of Israel. In the details of this passage we also find an understanding of the life of humble Palestinian shepherds far removed from our romantic but highly urbanised view of what a shepherd's life was like. Every village in the Judean uplands had a common sheepfold where flocks found shelter at night, especially in winter. Stealing sheep was not unknown. Thieves, whether human or animal, would not usually enter by the gate, but over or through a breach in the wall (verses 1-2). Every morning each shepherd stood at the gate and called his own sheep from the communal flock. Responding only to their own shepherd's peculiar call, the sheep filed out to be

led away to feed wherever pasture could be found (verses 3-5). If too far from the village to return at night, the shepherd sheltered his flock out on the hills in a rude fold with low stone or wattle walls. There was no gate, so the shepherd himself lay down across the opening to protect his flock from marauding animals or thieves (verses 7-9 – “I am the door”). The first three Gospels are replete with parables given by Jesus – these seem to be missing in John’s Gospel – yet these words are John’s recasting of parables by Jesus (noted in the text as ‘figure of speech’). Nonetheless, they speak to us of the ultimate significance of faith in Jesus as the way to abundant and eternal life. Abundant living can be defined only by the depth and meaning of one’s spirituality, not in materialistic terms sadly characteristic of many Christians and non-Christians alike.

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: Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; 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

In your prayers, please will you pray for our friends and neighbours throughout the benefice. For the sick, the grieving, the lonely, for all key workers; including our Clergy and Funeral Directors, 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, Richard Hanbury, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Bernard, Alex Bexon, Fr. Damian Feeney, Wakeham family, Jeanes Family, Michelle Simpson, Giles Maber and Robyn Kotze. For those in care homes: including June Kelloway and Roger Gray.*



Requiescat in pace

Craig Wakeham (Piddletrenthide)

Fay Lord (Piddlehinton)

Iris Pollock (Dorchester)

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

Benefice Notices



Foodbank: Donations for Dorchester Foodbank can be left at The Vicarage - Piddletrenthide, Orchard Cottage - Melcombe Bingham; or at the Bromilow's gate - Hilton for Blandford Foodbank.

Funerals: During the current Pandemic, graveside or crematorium funeral services are strictly private and therefore will not be advertised on the weekly church notices.

Fr. Roger is also assisting the Dorchester Churches undertake funerals due to a lack of available clergy.

Rosary Prayer: Wednesday Anglican Rosary will continue to be live streamed at 6pm, is there any interest in having this service over Zoom, so we can pray together? Do contact Ginny if you are interested.

Saturday Devotions 6pm. If you would like to join Fr. Roger to pray the Rosary each Saturday in the month of May, you are most welcome. An explanation will be given as the service is streamed live. The point here is simplicity and not to pray the system of prayer, rather it is a tool to deepen our relationship with God. Pope Francis is inviting the Apostolic Church to pray the Rosary over the month of May, for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. The rosary is dedicated for Mary and a Marian prayers is used at the end of the rosary. (Prayer Sheet attached.)

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

Sunday Communion Services are now being uploaded to YouTube after the livestreaming has taken place.

Search 'Fr. Roger Butcher' within youtube or use this link

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. If you 'like' the benefice facebook page, you will receive notifications on live services and other information posted to the facebook page.

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

https://www.facebook.com/piddlevally/?eid=ARAxIQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

The Vicarage, Church Lanes, Piddletrenthide. DT2 7QY. Tel. 01300 348211 / 07502 118210

Email. rector.piddlevallybenefice@gmail.com



Facebook: @piddlevally



Website: <https://piddlevallybenefice.com>