



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

Sunday 14th June 2020

Trinity 1 (Altar colour green)

Readings: Exodus 19: 1-8, Psalm 100, Rom. 5: 1-8, Matt. 9: 35 – 10 – 8,

Collect: O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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**

Exodus 19:1-8(ESV) - Israel at Mount Sinai

The people of Israel set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

COMMENT: This brief passage describes the prelude to the covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. As Moses went up the holy mountain, God told him what to expect the responsibilities of the covenant would be. Obedience and loyalty of the people would result in their being God’s treasured possession among all the people of the world. Summoning the elders of Israel, Moses set before them these requirements. On behalf of the people, the elders accepted. There is an interesting contrast between those words and the fact that Moses reported his epiphany to the elders (verse 7). Yet it was the people, not just the elders, who respond in verse 8. One of the fascinating aspects of current events recently has been the way in which the general populace of several countries – have completely disregarded the government of their nominal leaders to change the course of history for millions of ordinary people. In democratic and quasi-democratic societies, ordinary people can and do take matters into their own hands with dramatic effect.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (ESV) - The Harvest Is Plentiful, the Labourers Few

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

The Twelve Apostles

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

COMMENT: This passage might be called "the apostles mandate" because it concentrates on the task to be done and the twelve whom Jesus selected to undertake it. It also includes their initial instructions for beginning their work. Jesus used his Galilean origins to good effect, identifying with the humble villagers among whom he had grown up. As for the urban communities, there were possibly two which might qualify for such a description - Tiberias and Sepphoris. Both were relatively new, and both had been built as the capital city for Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Perea, Sepphoris, just five miles north of Nazareth in the Galilean hills, had held the tetrarch's establishment since AD 4 but in AD 25 was replaced by Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee because it gave better access to both regions of the tetrarchy. It was also the hub for local roads and the great trade route from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf via Damascus and the valley of the Tigris-Euphrates River. The population of these urban centres was very mixed - Galileans and foreigners, high and low, Jews and gentiles, slaves and freedmen, and those at the tetrarch's court. Jesus preferred ministering among the underclasses. His compassion for the plight of these people stands out in all the gospels. So the tradition reported in verse 36 had deep, personal meaning. It is possible the words recorded in verse 37 originated in a proverb well known to the same common folk. It is the kind of saying one might hear during the busy harvest season when extra labourers were urgently needed. About the twelve disciples/apostles chosen, we know extremely little about half of them. That there were twelve seems have correlation with the tradition of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were many more followers, and the tradition in all four Gospels, and in 1 Corinthians 15, is that 12 were selected for special training.

Post Communion: Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us with these heavenly gifts: may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in hope, and make us grow in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing: God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; 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, for the grieving, lonely and anxious: *Ken Lester, Sara Milne, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Bernard.* For those in care homes: including *June Kelloway (Blandford) and Roger Gray (Dorchester).*



Please pray for our friends, neighbours near and far; including all the community volunteers who continue to help one another through this difficult time. Pray for those who are starting the experience employment instability and the financial pressures. For our benefice schools of Cheselbourne and Piddle Valley as they working with parents, carers and children to ensure they are receiving education in the most appropriate environment. For our clergy and their families as we move forward easing the lockdown restrictions placed on our buildings.

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.



NEW ORDER OF SERVICE FOR ORDINARY TIME ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE WEBSITE

Sunday Communion Service are uploaded to YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzx72ka63g4A

Facebook to access livestream:

https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

Churches are opening for private prayer (no gatherings or worship at this time): From 13th June, the government have allowed the churches to be opened for private prayer. Fr. Roger is grateful for the time and thought taken by all PCC's within the benefice, to facilitate the re-opening of church buildings to the parish community. ***Further information regarding opening days/times to follow.***

Saturday Devotions 6pm. Stations of the resurrection will continue through-out June.

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