



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

Sunday 21st June 2020
Trinity 2 (Altar colour green)

Readings: Jer. 20:7-13, Psalm 69: 8-11, Rom 6: 1b-11, Matt 10: 24-39

Collect: Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Jeremiah 20:7-13 (ESV) - Jeremiah Persecuted by Pashhur

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

COMMENT: This exquisite poetry describes how Jeremiah felt when his fellow countrymen rejected his prophetic message from God. Though he was mocked and derided for preaching the doom soon to befall the nation, he could not keep quiet. He trusted that God would vindicate him and bring about the fateful end he predicted. In many ways this oracle delineates the constant dilemma faced by those who would speak prophetically. In order for prophetic words to be accepted by one's contemporaries, they must have some relevance to the moral and spiritual circumstances in which they are uttered. On the other hand, no one appreciates unfavourable criticism or to forecast doom which the prophet is bound to proclaim if faith dictates. Shortly after the Korean War (1950-53), a Christian minister was driven from his parish because he spoke openly against the military government which had seized power. He was threatened with imprisonment if he continued his outspoken opposition to the forces controlling his country. Before fleeing for his life, he hid a copy of the Bible in a box buried in the backyard of his home. Eventually he was captured and imprisoned. Years later, after the government had been replaced, he was freed, returned to

his home and immediately retrieved the sacred book. Opening it, his eye fell on the same verse he had recited as he secreted his treasure years before: "To you I have committed my cause." (v.20) A movie was made of his story to encourage faithfulness in those who struggled against oppression.

Matthew 10:24-39 (ESV) - The Disciple and Teacher

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

Have No Fear

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

COMMENT: This reading contains sayings given close to the end of Jesus' instructions to the twelve (v.5-42). Most scholars agree that these sayings originally stood alone or in smaller collections gathered from several sources of the tradition. Matthew composed the whole as one of five discourses forming the body of teachings which cast Jesus as the new Moses. Vs.21-22 reflect persecutions which the apostolic church endured. These sayings on persecution and discipleship were drawn from Mark 9:41 and 13:9-13. Vs.24-25 dealt with the false expectation that disciples of Jesus would fare better than he did, however their success was not guaranteed. Nor is it for any of us who would follow Christ now. The remaining segment of this reading, however, does offer encouragement and a promise of reward for those who are faithful. Indeed, Jesus instructed his disciples to speak openly in contrast to the rabbinical custom of keeping their teachings so secret that they whispered to their disciples (v.27). Such openness would certainly court opposition and even physical violence (vs.28-30). The reference to fear "him who can destroy both body and soul" is about faithfulness to God, for only he can do that. This is spelt out in v.33. This brings forth the striking contrast of how valued the disciples are by God described in the hyperbolic statement emphasizing God's personal care for each one of them. The phrase about "the hairs of your head are all counted" (v. 30) is the level of care down to the smallest part and has a parallel

in 1 Samuel 14:45. The note on the sparrows reinforces this. Psalm 69:4 provides the view that the hairs on our head are beyond counting, yet God knows the number. Deep commitment can not only find opposition by enemies, but as outlined in vs.34-36, but also provide hostility in families. The passage ends with a call to faithfulness.

Post Communion: Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with 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



Please pray for our friends, neighbours near and far. For the many family members who are carers in our community. For our schools, churches and local businesses as they find a new way forward during the easing of lockdown. For those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness &/or hospital treatment, for the grieving, lonely, anxious and confused: *Ken Lester, Sara Milne, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Ruth Tutt, Bernard, & David. For those in care homes: including June Kelloway (Blandford) and Roger Gray (Dorchester).*

**Lord, we pray for the unity of your church.
Help us to see ourselves as rays from the one sun,
branches of a single tree,
and streams flowing from one river.
May we remain united to you and to each other,
because you are our common source of life;
and may we send out your light
and pour forth your flowing streams over all the earth,
drawing our inspiration and joy from you. Amen**

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

Benefice Notices

Foodbank: Foodbank donations can now be taken into church at the appropriate opening times. Fr. Roger and I will collect from the churches when there is a bag full, store here at the Vicarage for 100hrs and then deliver to the Dorford Centre in Dorchester.

Donations can still be left at Orchard Cottage Melcombe Bingham and The Vicarage Piddletrenthide. Thank you for your continued support of this scheme. This week we have received donations from Melcombe Bingham – thank you.

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Churches are open for individual private prayer for residents – no tourists, according to UK Law. (No gatherings or worship at this time): Fr. Roger wishes to express his gratitude to the PCC's for the time and discussions that have and are continuing to take place regarding opening of our churches safely. The churches so far have agreed the following, however this is subject to constant review and may change at short notice.

Please use the supplied sanitiser when entering and exiting the church.

Alton Pancras	Daily	9.00am to 12noon
Piddletrenthide	Thursday	9.30am to 11.00am
	Sunday	10.30am to 12noon
Piddlehinton	Thursday	9.00am to 1.00pm
	Sunday	1.00pm to 5.00pm
Cheselbourne	Wednesday	9.00am to 11.00am
Melcombe Horsey	Sunday	10.0am to 11.00am
Hilton	Daily	

If you are showing symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not enter the Church.

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

From our Treasurers: Please contact our church treasurers to organise a regular standing order so to continue supporting the church financially. The church treasurer will be able to provide the appropriate account details; email address are below:

Hilton & Ansty: Charles Hunter - cjhh@hanc1.plus.com

Melcombe Horsey: Julie Saunders - julie@mendipmagic.co.uk

Cheselbourne: Jo Nash - jnash123@btinternet.com

Piddlehinton: Andrew Rennison - andrew_rennison@yahoo.co.uk

Piddletrenthide: Ginny Butcher - treasurer.piddletrenthide@gmail.com

Alton Pancras: Richard Scott - richard@drscott.co.uk



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

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_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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

Email. rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com



Facebook: @piddlevalley



Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>