



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

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**Trinity 6 / Proper 11 (Altar colour green)**

**Readings:** Wisd.12: 13, 16-19, Psalm 86 11-end, Rom. 8: 12-25, Matt 13: 24-30, 36-43

**Collect:** Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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**

## **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 (ESV) - God Is Sovereign**

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when men doubt the completeness of thy power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. You are sovereign in strength but you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the one who is righteous must be kind, and you have filled your sons with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

**COMMENT:** About a century before the birth of Jesus, a learned and faithful Jew assessed the situation for Jews in the great cosmopolitan city Alexandria in Egypt. Many Jews there had “assimilated” into the dominant pagan culture. They and native pagans sometimes ridiculed practicing Jews, so a pious Jew penned the book of Wisdom as an apologetic to bolster the faith of fellow Jews. One of the author’s overall aims was to remind his fellow Jews of their ancient heritage, and to emphasise God’s providence for these people throughout their history. The passage quoted comes from a section of the book, 11:17 – 12:27 known as “A digression on God’s mercy.” One solid point it makes, is that this God (and, it is implied, unlike all other gods) is so powerful and wise that he need not be vengeful and quick to punish. This God can afford to let his enemies live, for they can never prevail, and given time, might repent. This reading is in the second person, addressed by the speaker to God. That is unusual amongst Biblical passages.

## **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (ESV) - The Parable of the Weeds**

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

### ***The Parable of the Weeds Explained***

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

**COMMENT:** "Tares" are probably "bearded darnel," (*Lolium tementulum*) a weed which is similar to rye grass. Since both wheat and tares are in the grass family, they look similar shortly after germination. But as soon as the wheat begins to form grains, the difference becomes obvious. Jesus' hearers knew that this kind of "bio-terrorism" sometimes occurred. What is unusual is the farmer's response to his servants' (slaves') question. Tares could be pulled with minimal harm to the wheat crop—but the farmer forbids this. His solution is to wait until harvest time and then separate them, storing the wheat and burning the tares. The parable reveals something about the hostile environment which the early church encountered. As a parable about the kingdom of heaven, it should be looked at from God's point of view, not that of the apostolic church or the church today. Its originally simple purpose warned that the circumstances in which the church was to grow might not be ideal, but the outcome would be determined in the end when God finally brought history to an end and established the kingdom.

**Post Communion:** God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Blessing:** God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; 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 those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit, through illness &/or hospital treatment, for the grieving, lonely, anxious and confused. For those who have tripped or fallen at home, in the garden or out walking this past week.

Please pray for those who have asked for our intercession: *Ken Lester, Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, June Kellaway, Bernard, & David.*

For those in care homes including: *Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith in Warminster.*

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

## Benefice Notices



**Returning to worship:** At this time there is no participatory singing taking place during the service; the only singing will be by a cantor/s.

We will continue to live stream Sunday services and therefore music choices are restricted to pieces that are 'free to use in the public domain' and free from copyright.

**Foodbank:** Thank you for your continued support of this scheme.

**Churches are open for individual private prayer for residents:** See separate poster with opening times.

**Compline:** Thursday compline live stream will move to 8pm from 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

**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 9.30am Communion Service is uploaded to YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru\\_v3\\_1MZyx72ka63g4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyx72ka63g4A)

Facebook to access livestream:

[https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx\\_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq](https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq)

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July Services – Trinity 7**

9.30am Communion at Cheselbourne with Rev'd Helier

11.00am Communion at Alton Pancras with Fr. Roger

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton with Fr. Roger

*All services streamed live to Facebook.*

#### **Date for your diary**

**'Treasures on your Driveway'**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 3-5pm Melcombe Bingham**

**Driveway table top sale, helping to raise funds**

**for St Andrew's Church Melcombe Horsey**

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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