



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

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Trinity 7 / Proper 12 (Altar colour green)**

**Readings:** 1Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119: 129-136, Rom 8: 26-39, Matt. 13: 31-33, 44-52

**Collect:** Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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**

## **1Kings 3:5-12 (ESV)**

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

## **Romans 8:26-39 (ESV) - Future Glory**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

## ***God's Everlasting Love***

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died— more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**COMMENT:** Paul deals in very succinct, even lyrical, sentences with several subjects of utmost significance: prayer, the assurance of salvation, predestination, the sovereignty of divine love, the unbreakable spiritual bond between the believer and God. The whole reading should be approached not as systematic theology but as the experience of profound faith by one who knew whereof he spoke. This is a meditation on what it means to have a close, personal,

faith relationship with God as one who is a child of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. How do we pray when we don't really know how? That is the first question Paul answered. The Spirit helps us. Verse 31-39 have been used frequently to bring comfort to the bereaved at funeral services. These words are not to be reserved for times of mourning, but for every day and for all of life. Their soaring, lyrical phrases leave one breathless before the imaginative vision of what faith means for all who struggle with the countless storms with which life buffets us. The key to this assurance of our faith is God's sovereignty in life and death revealed for all time and eternity in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son. We are not alone. We live in God's world.... In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. Because God loves us, nothing will be able to separate us from God.

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (ESV) - The Mustard Seed and the Leaven**

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

***The Parable of the Hidden Treasure***

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

***The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value***

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

***The Parable of the Net***

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

***New and Old Treasures***

"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

**COMMENT:** More parables of the kingdom, obviously gathered from many occasions point out various characteristics of God's reign in human affairs. Many scholars look at these isolated instances as presaging the time when all humanity would be governed by God's love. "The Kingdom of Heaven" is not just about the after-life, but about a future experience of the whole universe governed by God's love. Mustard ... the smallest seed? the biggest tree? Mustard seed is about 1 – 2 mm in diameter. It is botanically not the smallest seed, but in Jesus' culture, mustard seed is the smallest among the plants familiar to them. In fact, it is often used to describe something small during the time. Mustard is an annual shrub, a small tree that is able to grow up to 8 feet in height (or much higher in the wild), which is the tallest among other herbs in a Jewish's garden.

**Post Communion:** Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**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.**

**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**

## 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.

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 Jane Smith in Warminster.*



Please pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony:

Thomas and Anita – 14<sup>th</sup> August at Piddlehinton,

Paul and Susan – 21<sup>st</sup> August at Piddlehinton,

Jake and Lucy – 4<sup>th</sup> September at Alton Pancras



### Requiescat in pace

Rev'd Derek Parry (Dorchester) – former Rector of the Piddle Valley 1974-1992

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

## Benefice Notices

**Returning to worship update:** The wearing of a facemask/covering in church is not compulsory; the likelihood of being unable to personal distance in church is very low. However please feel free to wear one should you wish to.



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, we have received donations from Piddlehinton this week. Donations may be left in any of the churches, at the Vicarage, Piddletrenthide or Orchard Cottage, Melcombe Bingham.

**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.

Sunday 9.30am Communion Service is uploaded to YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru\\_v3\\_1MZyzx72ka63g4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ru_v3_1MZyzx72ka63g4A)

Facebook to access livestream:

[https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAXiQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx\\_uzUyvf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq](https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAXiQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyvf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lltrMbHsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq)

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August Services – Trinity 8**

9.30am Communion at Alton Pancras with Fr. Roger

11.00am Communion at Cheselbourne with Rev'd Helier

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton with Fr. Roger

*All services streamed live to Facebook. 9.30am Service will be uploaded to YouTube.*

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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