



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

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Trinity 10 / Proper 15 (Altar colour green)

**Readings:** Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8 Psalm 67, Rom 11: 1-2, 29-32 Matt 15: 21-28

**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**

## **Isaiah 56:1-8 (ESV) - Salvation for Foreigners**

Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my righteousness be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

**COMMENT:** This hymn celebrates God’s love for all peoples. Such passages as these form a high point in Jewish Theology, one of the main themes of Israel’s unknown prophet of the Babylonian Exile whose works form Isaiah 40-55. This prophet flourished in the period just before the Median Emperor Cyrus conquered Babylon to the restoration of the Jewish exiles to their homeland (circa 540-525 BC), following Cyrus’ proclamation. Not only Israel but people of all nations will be welcome to worship in God’s rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and become a full part of the people of God. However to preserve Jewish identity the Jews became more exclusive and inward. It could be argued that this prophecy received its fulfillment in the Christian Church.

## **Matthew 15:10-28 (ESV) - The Faith of a Canaanite Woman**

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she

came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” And he answered, “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

**COMMENT:** There seems little doubt that Matthew fully intended to link the parable and teaching in 15:10-20 with the story of Jesus healing the daughter of a Canaanite woman in a foreign country as two expressions of the universal love of God for all peoples. This important lesson touches us pointedly at a time when we too are all prone to divide the good from the bad, our race, our country, our tribe, our folk, our faith from all others. In the Iraq war hitherto decent men and women got sucked into behaviour in their treatment of captives that was truly appalling. Young men get indoctrinated into Islamic extremism, or extreme Irish nationalism, where hatred of the enemy leads them to maim or kill, often indiscriminately. The Psychologist Philip Zimbardo demonstrates how evil can be caught – almost like a cold (see “The Lucifer Effect – How Good People turn Evil” Random House, 2007). The Law now acknowledges how the heart can be influence to the bad – there is an offence of inciting hatred or violence – and yet developments of the last thirty or forty years – policies pushed by political parties, have done much to influence the present climate. On the right, epitomised by greedy Bankers and MPs with their expenses, are those who have gained economically by our present system which is driving the gap between the rich and poor ever wider. Those on the left are not off the hook either, as the social experiment of suggesting all forms of parenting are the same, and their disdain for positive moral codes and the Christian Faith, have robbed many of any ethical standards by which to live. In regard to wanting to rid society of any Christian or religious influence, it has not been replaced by neutral secularism but by the left or right’s “isms”, ideologies and dogmas. It is little wonder that we the need the present “inciting” laws as a negative corrective. The influence on the heart for good begins with strong and supportive families – and probably the best model is the traditional family. Schooling should include the teaching of respect – your old fashioned moral codes if you like, and that we have responsibilities as well as rights – the old fashioned “do your duty”! We need to pray that common sense will guide any reforms – rather than the creeds and ideologies of the political parties. Perhaps we cannot do any worse than place our faith in the healing of God for our society rather than man. Also, the two readings; Romans and the second part of Matthew, demonstrate that the Kingdom is inclusive. Our Lord’s comments which may seem hard, do not exclude, but that his ministry during his mortal life was of necessity limited to his homeland. It is his disciples who at his command go into all the world (Matthew 28:19). The comment of our Lord, however elucidated a confession of faith – God responds to our heartfelt prayer.

**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**

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**9.30am 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Communion Service at Piddletrenthide**

***BYO flask of tea / coffee and refreshments for fellowship in the churchyard.***

**All are welcome from the Benefice and further afield.**

## 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.

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

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

### Requiescat in pace

Stella Barrow, Piddlehinton

Pauline Cooke, Formerly of Melcombe Bingham



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

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

## Benefice Notices

**Returning to worship:** The Prime Minister has made the wearing of a facemask/covering in church by the congregation mandatory.

THE  
**WEEK**  
AHEAD

If you wish to read the lesson during a service, this is permit-able from your pew. Please volunteer before the service starts.

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.

**Live Streaming:** Please visit our live streamed services throughout the week, orders of service are available on the website home page to download.

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

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Services – Trinity 12**

Readings: Isaiah 51: 1-6, Psalm 138, Rom 12: 1-8, Matt 16: 13-20

9.30am Communion at Cheselbourne with Fr. Roger

11.00am Communion at Alton Pancras with Fr. Roger

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Hilton with Rev'd Helier

*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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