



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

Sunday 30th August 2020
Trinity 12 / Proper 17 (Altar colour green)

Readings: Jer. 15: 15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Rom. 12: 9-end, Matt. 16: 21-end.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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 3:1-15 (ESV) - The Burning Bush

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

COMMENT: Two main themes stand out in this reading: the call of Moses and the nature of God who calls. Moses' experience resembles very closely the call of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8). This is not surprising since the narrative likely took its final shape about the same period of Israel's history, the 9th and 8th Centuries BC. The pattern follows the same typical literary form: a vision, a response of awe mingled with initial receptiveness, the divine mission stated, and instructions given on the means of carrying out the mission.

Romans 12:9-21 (ESV) - Marks of the True Christian

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21-28 (ESV) - Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

COMMENT: These few verses contain two prophecies of different kinds. First there is Jesus telling the disciples about his pending death and resurrection. We must remember that Matthew wrote this with fifty to sixty years of hindsight, so he knew what had actually happened. Undoubtedly, this coloured his report of the prediction. He does give a reality check, however, taken directly from Mark's account (Mark 8:32-33), by including Peter's abrupt rejection of the prediction and Jesus' equally severe rebuke (vss. 22-23). Luke's parallel passage excludes the incident (Luke 9:21-22), but does tell of the prediction of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection as part of his admonition following Peter's messianic confession. The fact that Jesus' teaching about his death is found in all three gospels indicates that it had a very strong oral tradition behind it.

Post Communion: God of all mercy, in this Eucharist you have set aside our sins and given us your healing: grant that we who are made whole in Christ may bring that healing to this broken world, 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. *We pray for those who are contemplating change in their lives, and those that are fearful of financial instability.*

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

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

Requiescat in pace

Pauline Cooke, Formerly of Melcombe Bingham



Please pray for our couples preparing for Holy Matrimony:
Jake and Lucy – 4th September at Alton Pancras

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

Benefice Notices

Foodbank: A local radio station reported today that Portland Food Bank have been spending an additional £1000 per week to keep up with the demand. Other food banks are similarly reporting an increase in demand for food parcels. We are in a period of financial worry for many, as a result of the pandemic. Please help us support those in the Dorchester area by donating tins/packets for the foodbank. Collection boxes are held in each church, please bring a tin when you come to church on Sunday. Alternatively, donations can be left at Orchard Cottage - Melcombe Bingham (thankyou Richard and Julie) or The Vicarage - Piddletrenthide.

THE
WEEK
AHEAD

Returning to worship: As a benefice we are able to provide a 'Covid Safe Space' for worship and to receive communion. Please do travel to attend a service in one of the 6 benefice churches and follow the safety protocols set out in each church. The pre-covid rota is not

manageable at this time, due to the additional time required for officiants to set up for each service, including live streaming equipment. We have 2 communion services and 1 evening prayer service available each Sunday.

The Prime Minister has made the wearing of a facemask/covering in church by the congregation mandatory.

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 *or a dedicated choir*. As we live stream Sunday services, music choices are therefore restricted to pieces that are 'free to use in the public domain' and free from copyright.

Live Streaming: Since March, we have been live streaming via Facebook the weekday offices, Saturday devotions and communion services. We have a large following not just from within the benefice, but also Dorchester, Blandford, Poole, Llanelli, Salisbury, and further afield; including France, Uganda, Columbia, and Belgium! Please do join us for the live streams over the course of the week. Our grateful thanks to Rev'd Helier for his continued support of the streamed services, assisting in offering a variety of weekday offices.

Sunday Services will continue to be live streamed and the 9.30am service will be uploaded to YouTube. All communion services are 'said' using the "Ordinary Time Pandemic Order of Service" available on the benefice website.

Sunday 9.30am Communion Service is uploaded to YouTube:

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

Facebook to access livestream:

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

Sunday 6th September Services – Trinity 13/Proper 18

Readings: Ezek. 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Rom. 13:8-end, Matt. 18:15-20.

9.30am Communion Service at Alton Pancras with Fr. Roger

11.00am Communion Service 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

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

Email. rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com



Facebook: @piddlevalley



Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>