



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

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Trinity 14 / Proper 19 (Altar colour green)**

**Readings:** Readings: Gen. 50: 15-21, Psalm 103: 1-13, Rom. 14: 1-12, Matt. 18: 21-35

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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**

### **Gen. 50: 15-21 (ESV) - *God's Good Purposes***

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>1</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

### **Rom. 14: 1-12 (ESV) - *Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another***

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honour of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honour of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honour of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess<sup>b</sup> to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

### **Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV) - The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**COMMENT:** What caused Peter to ask this question? We can only ponder. Peter's question, however, brings forth a marvellously exaggerated response and a parable that teaches true forgiveness: the grace of forgiveness has no limits. The parable of the wicked servant reveals a ruthlessness in God's judgment that seems uncharacteristic, yet it contains one of Jesus' most important teachings. It also illustrates the principle of forgiveness verbalized in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." (Matt. 6:12, 14-15) It shows how freely and fully God forgives, and how much God expects us to forgive others whom we feel may have wronged us. The person who refuses to forgive only does damage to his/her eternal soul as well as interpersonal relationships in this life. One point to note is the vast difference in the two debts. Just the numbers alone quite apart from the coinage emphasises this, a ratio of 100 to 1. Ten thousand talents would have a value of millions of pounds today. A hundred denarii (each worth a day labourer's wage at that time) would be worth only a relatively few pounds in today's currency. Such exaggeration (known in literature as 'hyperbole') is found in many of Jesus' parables. He told these little stories in this manner to drive home his point. This sets the Christian way apart in an age when so many persons and groups utter angry denunciations or act violently toward those who differ with them. Is this merely an ideal toward which we should strive? Or could it be the most practical way of settling our differences and living together as neighbours in a world which we now realise is increasingly pluralistic in so many respects?

**Post Communion:** Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Blessing:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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, through illness &/or hospital treatment, for the grieving, lonely, anxious and confused. *For our children, young people and families.*

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

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

### **Requiescat in pace**

Rita Whelan, formerly from Cheselbourne  
Miriam House, formerly of Hilton



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

## **Benefice Notices**

**Foodbank:** Please remember your foodbank donations when you come to church. Collection boxes are held in each church for Dorchester Foodbank, please bring a tin when you come to church on Sunday. Alternatively, donations can be left at Orchard Cottage - Melcombe Bingham (thank you 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.

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:**

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](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 20<sup>th</sup> September Services – Trinity 15/Proper 20**

Readings: Jonah 3:10 – 4:-End, Psalm 145: 1-8, Phil. 1: 21-End, Matt. 20: 1-16

9.30am Communion Service at Hilton with Rev'd Helier

11.00am Communion Service at Piddlehinton with Fr. Roger

11.00am Horsey Half Hour at Melcombe Horsey with Richard Saunders

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddletrenthide 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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