



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

Sunday 27th September 2020

Trinity 16 / Proper 21 (Altar colour green)

Readings: Ezek. 18: 1-4, 25-end, Psalm 25: 1-8, Phil. 2: 1-13, Matt. 21: 23-32

Collect: O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

Ezek. 18: 1-4, 25-end (ESV) - The Soul Who Sins Shall Die

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

Philippians 2:1-13(ESV) - Christ's Example of Humility

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name

of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32 (ESV) - The Authority of Jesus Challenged

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

The Parable of the Two Sons

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

COMMENT: Challenged by his opponents to identify his authority as he was teaching in the temple, Jesus refused. He further challenged them with a simple but obvious riddle about John the Baptist. When they refused, he excoriated them for not believing John the Baptist when even tax collectors and prostitutes did so. The excerpt ends with a parable unique to Matthew's Gospel. Various Greek texts give different versions of the story, some reversing the roles of the two brothers. The message of the story is clear: God requires righteous conduct, not hypocritical behaviour. The final thrust that the tax collectors and prostitutes may have an advantage over the religious authorities can be seen as a justification for Jesus' ministry to those whom the authorities totally rejected. It meant that the irreligious may sometimes respond to the good news of God's forgiving love more readily than those whose self-deceiving moral superiority makes them impervious to its appeal. The main key is the person's sense of self-worth which can deceive even the most perceptive to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think (Romans 12:3).

Post Communion: Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing: Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; 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. For all who are worried and anxious for the weeks/months ahead. For the increased pressure of work for our Keyworkers and NHS staff.*

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

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

Requiescat in pace

Miriam House, formerly of Hilton
Colin Davis, Piddletrenthide



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

Tea and a chat always available just ring the Rector and put a date in the diary. Happy to chat over the garden gate too!



Fr. Roger 01300 348211

Date for your Diary

Piddletrenthide

**Harvest Scarecrow competition
& driveway table top sale.**

Saturday 17th October 2020

1-3pm.

More details to follow!



Benefice Notices

Foodbank: Please remember your foodbank donations when you come to church. I have received donations from Cheselbourne & Piddletrenthide & Piddlehinton this week thank you. Collection boxes are in church; alternatively, donations can be left at Orchard Cottage - Melcombe Bingham (thank you Richard and Julie) or The Vicarage - Piddletrenthide.



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, **'Checking in' with the QR Code or sign in sheet provided.**
- The pre-covid rota is not manageable at this time. There are 2 communion 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.
- The only singing will be by a cantor/s or a dedicated choir.
- Music choices are 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 follow 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_1MZyzyx72ka63g4A

Facebook to access livestream:

https://www.facebook.com/piddlevalley/?eid=ARAxjQNj5mPHQUQD2hKEx_uzUyyf17basudX3D22bYJx4HsCh7ByYB8lItrMbHhsARvgwbTqvapn-Glq

Sunday 4th October 2020 Services – Trinity 17/Proper 22

Readings: Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80: 9-17, Phil. 3: 4-14, Matt. 21: 33-end

9.30am Harvest Communion at Alton Pancras with Fr. Roger

11.00am Harvest Communion at Cheselbourne 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

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

Email. rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com



Facebook: @piddlevalley



Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>