



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

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Trinity 18 / Proper 23 (Altar colour green)**

**Readings:** Isaiah 25: 1-9, Psalm 23, Phil 4: 1-9, Matt. 22: 1-14

**Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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 25:1-9 (ESV) - God Will Swallow Up Death Forever**

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the foreigners' palace is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall, like heat in a dry place. You subdue the noise of the foreigners; as heat by the shade of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is put down. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

## **Philippians 4:1-9 (ESV) - Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer**

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have laboured side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**COMMENT:** Faith, friendship, reconciliation and strong, ethical behaviour are all wrapped into these few verses. They are among the most intimate words written by the austere apostle Paul. Since this was the first congregation he had founded in Macedonia, a northern province of Greece, he had a very special relationship with the Christians of Philippi. Quarrelling in any congregation causes great disruption. We know nothing other than their names about the two women Euodia and Syntyche. Nor do we know whether their quarrel was personal or theological. The “loyal companion” whom Paul asked to help them resolve their differences may refer to Epaphroditus whom Paul had sent as his letter carrier. Actually Paul looked past this temporary distress among the Philippians and invited them to rejoice with him in the Lord. Paul was also a man of prayer. Here he speaks of two very significant ways of praying: supplication and thanksgiving. It was normal for him to begin his letters with a word of thanksgiving for those who he addressed (Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Philippians 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3). He felt it very normal to bring every concern he had before the throne of grace expecting that he would ultimately know God’s will in each situation. It was this life of prayer that gave him “the peace that passes understanding.” Strong moral behaviour marked all of Paul’s admonitions to his correspondents. Here in verse 8 he summarized how he believed every person should live in the real world. In doing so, the Philippians would be following his example and doing as he had taught them (verse 9). It may be difficult for Christians of our day to realize just who made up many of these early congregations. As it had been with Jesus in many instances, it was the moral outcasts like prostitutes and the ethically corrupt like tax collectors who were attracted to the Christian way. Paul’s ministry in Philippi had begun with two people, neither of whom would have been among the prestigious citizens of that Roman city - a woman of commerce and the town jailer (Acts 16:14-15, 25-40). In the households of both of these who were baptized would have been many slaves too. Their former life had been like, Paul expected everyone to behave according to the same high standard.

### **Matthew 22:1-14 (ESV) - The Parable of the Wedding Feast**

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**COMMENT:** The parable tells of a royal banquet to which outsiders were welcomed after all the invited guests sent their excuses for refusing has many undertones. It condemns those who refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah. It is also a prophecy about the messianic banquet which was a traditional part of the Jewish expectation of the coming of the Messiah at the end of history. According to Scholar Joachim Jeremias (1900-1979), “wedding clothes” (endyma gamou) means “not a special garment, worn on festive occasions, but a newly washed garment. The soiled garment is an insult to the host” (Parables, page 187; he cites Revelation 19:8; 22:14). We are perhaps meant to infer (especially given the extremity of the situation) that the king furnished the proper clothing - which this particular man did not wear. The garment may be an allusion to Baptism.

**Post Communion:** We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen**

**The 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**

**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**



### **Benefice Prayer list.**

- Please pray for those who are suffering, through illness &/or hospital treatment, for the grieving, lonely, anxious and concerned for the weeks ahead.
- *Please pray for those who have not yet returned to church, we miss their presence within our church community.*
- *Please pray for the Police Force, particularly in Dorchester for whom Fr. Roger is chaplain. They are on the receiving end of much abuse due to the Covid restrictions placed upon us. Pray that we can act responsibly to assist those in need and to protect those who are vulnerable.*
- Please pray for those who have asked for our intercession: *Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Davies Family, Bernard & David.*
- For those in care homes including: *Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster).*



**Requiescat in pace**

Colin Davies, Piddletrenthide



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

### **Date for your Diary**

**Piddletrenthide**

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

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**table-top sales 1-3pm.**

**Details attached**



## Benefice Notices

**Foodbank:** Please remember your foodbank donations when you come to church. I have received donations from Alton Pancras 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.

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, **'Venue Check 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\\_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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020 Services – Luke the Evangelist (Proper 24)**

**Readings:** Isaiah 35: 3-6, Psalm 147: 1-7, 2 Tim 4: 5-17, Luke 10: 1-9

*Altar Colour - Red*

9.30am Harvest Communion at Hilton with Rev'd Helier

11.00am Harvest Communion at Piddlehinton with Fr. Roger

11.00am Horsey Half Hour at Melcombe Horsey with Richard Saunders

6.00pm Harvest 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

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

Email. [rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com](mailto:rector.piddlevalleybenefice@gmail.com)



Facebook: @piddlevalley



Website: <https://piddlevalleybenefice.com>