



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

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Bible Sunday (Altar colour green)**

**Readings:** Neh. 8: 1-4, 8-12 Psalm 119: 9-16, Col 3: 12-17, Matt 24: 30-35

**Collect:** Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Nehemiah 8:1-4 (ESV) - Ezra Reads the Law**

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

### ***This Day Is Holy***

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

### **Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and

admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Matthew 24:30-35 (ESV)**

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

#### ***The Lesson of the Fig Tree***

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

**COMMENT:** The chapter is dedicated to the warnings and predictions about eschatological tribulations. Climaxing in the literary end of history with a Christological conclusion (30-35). Meanwhile the woes of the church and intensification of them verses v4-28 are dedicated to the post-Easter period of messianic woes that find their climax in 28:16-20 as ‘the end of the age’ (eschaton), alluding to Daniel 7:13.

Jesus warns that wonders and signs are not themselves guarantees of God’s activity (v24-25) as tribulations have been predicted and must be endured, however it is obvious that Jesus’ arrival (29-35) is the coming of God’s Glory. The backdrop of darkness and tribulation on the world becomes the supernatural encounter of help from heaven, the beginning and the end (Gen 1:2) is also a sign of judgement (Am 5:18, 20) and mourning.

The early church had an expectation Jesus would return as, “*this **generation** will not pass away until all things take place*”. Such an eschatological belief did not occur. See also (Jn 21:20-23) as multitude of Christians ‘still’ await the return of the Lord. This passage is bound in the ignorance of when. Matthew’s response is vigilance and not apathy (v37-44), concerning the date of the end. The eschaton (final event) is like death and can occur at any time.

Matthew’s response (37-51) is not to fall into agnostic eschatological vigilance, ignoring the end-times, rather active vigilance within the mundane aspects of life, furthermore to prepare ourselves morally for our Lord’s arrival. Such a belief can be found in church dogma e.g. the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, although many Christian services do not use creeds; therefore such beliefs are unknown to many Christians, furthermore there is a growing academic viewpoint, ‘the demise of church membership’ is due to ‘unbelief or lack acknowledgement of church dogma’.

**Post Communion:** God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
**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.**

*If you are required to self-isolate,  
i.e. awaiting test result or advised to isolate via the NHS Covid-19 app;  
and cannot obtain supplies, please do contact Fr. Roger and we shall try to assist.  
Tel. 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.*
- *We pray for those effected by the financial instability the current pandemic has bought to many. We pray for the work of the Foodbanks, soup kitchens and homeless shelters.*
- Please pray for those who have asked for our intercession: *Ann Lambert, Geoff Harris, Robin Dibble, June Kellaway, Robin Saunders, Anita, the Davies Family, Bernard & David.*
- For those in care homes including: *Roger Gray (Dorchester) and June Smith (Warminster).*

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



# Benefice Notices



**Food Bank:** Please bring your food bank donation to church, or place in the box at the Vicarage, Piddletrenthide.

**Holiday:** Fr. Roger, Ginny & family will have a short 'holiday' from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 (inclusive).

**Police Chaplaincy:** Fr. Roger has resumed his twice monthly visits to Dorchester Police Station, supporting all the officers and volunteers based in the building.

**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 two communion and one 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.

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 Services All Saints/All Souls**

Hilton & Piddlehinton Readings: Rev. 7: 9-end, Psalm 34: 1-10, 1 John 3: 1-3, Matt 5: 1-12

Alton Pancras: Phil 2: 1-4, Luke 14: 12-14

9.30am All Saints Communion at Hilton with Fr. Roger (Altar Colour Red)

11.00am All Souls Communion at Alton Pancras with Rev'd Helier (Altar Colour Purple)

6.00pm Evening Prayer at Piddlehinton with Fr. Roger (Altar Colour Red)

*All services streamed live to Facebook. 9.30am & 11am Service will be uploaded to YouTube.*

Rector - Fr. Roger J. Butcher SSC KSJ

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